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Ex-governor Babauta nominated to CHCC board. **PAGE 3**

Six from the NMI graduate from Boise State University. **PAGE 7**

\$1

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Jorgensen nomination is opposed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Members of the Rota community have signed a petition asking the CNMI Senate to oppose Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' nomination of Bruce Jorgensen to serve on

the Commonwealth Ports Authority board on behalf of Rota.

The petition asks the Senate to reject Jorgensen's appointment because they believe his appointment would be "an insult to the people of Rota."

See PETITION on Page 4

Locals involved in smuggling Chinese nat'ls to Guam have not been charged

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The local residents involved in illegally transporting 27 Chinese nationals from Saipan to Guam this month have not been charged, according to Franklin Babauta, special assistant for CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Babauta said in an interview that the two captains of the boats that were used to illegally transport 27 undocumented individuals from Saipan to Guam have not been charged as of press time.

"Local individuals who were involved in the crime have not been charged. No arrests have been made on these

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\$85K annual salary for Kingman as AAG OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

James Robert Kingman, who is the special prosecutor in the criminal case against former governor Ralph DLG Torres, will soon be employed as an assistant attorney general with the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.



Palacios



Kingman



Torres

Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last Thursday that he is granting approval to allow Kingman,

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios informed House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S.

who will be employed as an AAG, to receive an annual

See \$85K on Page 4



CUC calls cops after water tank hatch is found open

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A hatch on top of the Dandan Water Tank was discovered open

last Thursday, prompting the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to call the police to investigate and for the agency to issue a precautionary "boil water" notice,

according to Kevin Watson, who is the CUC water/wastewater division manager.

Speaking at the CUC board

See CUC on Page 4

Speaking before members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, CUC water/wastewater division manager Kevin Watson provides an update about an incident at the Dandan Water Tank that prompted CUC to issue a precautionary "boil water" notice last Thursday.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

95

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Bank of Hawaii is honored with a bronze level U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award.

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OVERDRIVE

Sleek, simple and sophisticated, the Hyundai Ioniq 6 takes direct aim at the Tesla Model 3.

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LIFE & STYLE

The 2023 BET Awards celebrated 50 years of hip-hop with tributes to the genre's earliest voices.

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Local

LEIGH GASES

The 11 graduates of the Natibu Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Micronesia Maritime Cultural Heritage Advanced Training pose for a photo with their certificates and retired U.S. Navy Capt. Michael Bacher, right, last Sunday in a graduation ceremony at the Canoe Federation Utt at Guma' Higai in Susupe.

11 graduate from Micronesia Maritime Cultural Heritage Advanced Training

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

After a weeklong training camp for the Natibu Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Micronesia Maritime Cultural Heritage Advanced Training from June 19 to June 25, 11 sea cadet recruits graduated last Sunday in a graduation ceremony at the Canoe Federation Utt at Guma' Higai in Susupe.

There were four cadets from the United States, two from Guam, and five from Saipan.

Seaman apprentice Darlincia Masga of Saipan received the Honor Cadet Citation Ribbon for her outstanding leadership, participation, and contribution to the training.

Chief Petty Officer Thomas Matthews from California received the Staff Cadet Ribbon.

Petty Officer Second Class Theoden Adair from California received the Physical Readiness Test Excellence Ribbon.

Petty Officer Third Class Zikai Lian from California, Seaman apprentice Jessica Ma from Saipan, Seaman Kai Spence from Guam, and Seaman Jevon Gong from Saipan also received the PRT E Ribbon. Gong was also awarded the Certificate for Most Improved Cadet for his swimming.

Seaman Conrad Cruz from Saipan received the Solo Warrior certificate; and Seaman apprentice Roger Wei from Saipan, Seaman Otinel Mason from Wyoming, and Seaman apprentice Tristan Manglona received their graduation certificates.

Fifteen-year-old Masga said she joined the program because she's always wanted to join the Navy since middle school. "I went ahead and joined and the experience was great. I've met a lot of new people, making our division bigger, and making a bigger family so it's been great. I've been experiencing new things and learning more things and seeking a lot of adventure—going on hikes to places I've never seen before."

She said she was not expecting her leadership award, but that it felt great. As for the future, she said "I'm actually just letting my mind open with everything—my mindset is open and just letting whatever opportunities come my way and letting life take me wherever it could take me. But I am setting my goals on joining the Navy and also continuing to dance because that's my passion."

The ceremony was led by retired U.S. Navy Capt. Michael Bacher, attended by keynote speaker Ross Manglona, who is the Indigenous Affairs resident executive and whose son was in the graduating class. Others at the ceremony were commanding officer Ray Alvarez, cultural practitioners Tony Pailug and Frances Sablan, along with the graduating class' family and friends.

Bacher said after the ceremony, "The cadets were excellent. The most important thing about this training is that they come with an open mind and an open heart—and they did. We worked them with a lot of hiking and put them in front of cultural practitioners for dance, medicine, music, and arts and they embraced it. This training is not so much about military development, but more about spiritual and intellectual development."

The Navy Sea Cadet Corps is a federally chartered non-profit civilian youth training organization sponsored by the Navy League and supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. It is described as a regimented youth program similar to JROTC but with a focus on seagoing services.

The program builds leaders of character. Its goals are to develop interest in seamanship and seagoing skills, instill principles of good citizenship and strong moral character, demonstrate the value of a substance-free lifestyle and expose cadets to the prestige of a military or merchant marine career.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Former governor Babauta appointed to CHCC board

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed former governor Juan Nekai Babauta to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees.

If confirmed by the Senate, Babauta, who will be

representing Saipan and Northern Islands to the CHCC board, will serve the remaining of a six-year term that will expire on June 22, 2029.

Babauta used to serve as CHCC chief executive officer. In April 2013, the CHCC board of trustees fired him, two months ahead of the expiration of

his contract as CEO, over some issues.

Babauta served as the sixth elected governor of the CNMI for one term, from 2002 to 2006. He



Babauta

served as resident representative of the NMI in Washington, D.C., for three four-year terms, from 1990 to 2002.

Senate OKs commercial rate for CHCC's utilities

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Senate passed Friday a bill that would mandate the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to change the power, water, and wastewater rate for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. from the current government rate to the lower commercial rate.

With five senators voting "yes," one voting "no," and three excused absences, Senate Bill 23-37, SD1 now goes to the House of Representatives for action.

The five senators who voted "yes" were Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), and James Mendiola (R-Rota). Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) was the sole "no" vote. Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) were absent but excused.

Hofschneider, Magofna, and Donald M. Manglona are the co-authors of the legislation.

Before voting, Babauta asked that the bill be tabled or referred back to the committee. She said the Public Utilities Commission board is responsible for establishing the rates for utilities and that these can be fixed with regulations—not legislation.

She pointed out that, at the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee confirmation hearing last June 16 for James Sirok and Dr. Jack Angelo, who were nominated by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to the Public Utilities Commission, a question directly

related to what this bill proposes was posed on both nominees.

Babauta said that Sirok cautioned the Legislature from introducing such legislation because it would put the onus on the other two classes of ratepayers: households and the commercial ratepayers. She said it would be unfair to households and commercial ratepayers to subsidize CHCC.

"I'm not trying to neglect the needs or abandon the needs of CHCC," Babauta said, but she believes that with the confirmation in the near-future of Sirok and Angelo—whom she described as experts in the field of utilities—the senators should give them every opportunity to do their own research and make the proper determination as to what the rate adjustments should look like today, rather than rush to judgment and pass the bill.

Hofschneider said Babauta made valid points, but this is not the first time that they have introduced this legislation and that for every day that they wait is every day that CHCC is going to risk being shut down because of unpaid utilities arrears.

Hofschneider said it's an injustice also for senators to continue neglecting the obvious situation currently being faced by CHCC when the Legislature is unable to properly give CHCC the needed funds to address the operations and their obligations such as the utilities and, recently, medical referral.

He said the issues will not go away for CHCC and that he understands that PUC will be the commission tasked to oversee the rates.

"But are we going to wait for months again to continue the deliberation on what rates

CHCC should be paying? Or should we put this to rest?" Hofschneider asked.

He said they can revisit this with CHCC when the PUC is in order.

"When this thing is booked since 2011 it doesn't look good on their financial portfolio. There's no way that they

are going to pay the \$58 million that is before them," Hofschneider said.

Babauta said that CHCC has waited for years to pay their utilities, so there should be no rush to regulate by legislation. She said they don't have to wait for months as the two nominees will hopefully be confirmed by the end of this month.

"It is so unfair to put this

onus on households who are suffering right now because of high utility rates," she added.

Before voting "yes" to pass the bill, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) said that when the bill passes the Senate that day, it will be transmitted to the House of Representatives for further deliberation.

"Therefore, for the re-

cord, nobody's rate changes," she said.

According to the bill, CHCC should not have to subsidize CUC by paying the higher utility government rate. Instead, CHCC should be classified as a commercial entity and charged commercial utility rates, similar to every other healthcare provider in the CNMI.

Flash flooding threat diminished

The region will still experience a wet pattern but the threat of flash flooding is already diminished, according to the latest weather advisory.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a surface trough continues to approach the Marianas from the east and will bring increasing showers to the region until Wednesday.

"Latest model guidance indicates the most likely timing for heavier showers will be [until] Tuesday night," it said.

While a wet pattern still lies ahead, the threat of significant rainfall has diminished due to

the lessened likelihood of a circulation forming within the passing trough axis. Showers and thunderstorms could be heavy at times through Tuesday night and could result in some nuisance flooding of streams and low-lying areas.

NWS will continue closely monitoring conditions for the possibility of significant rains and will issue advisories and warnings as needed. For the latest forecasts, warnings and advisories, see us on the web at weather.gov/gum.

The public is advised that localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Ensure nearby storm drains are not clogged, especially for low-lying or flood-prone areas. (PR)

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Babauta: My allegiance is to the people, not to Palacios

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

In clarifying why she voted “no” to a motion to override Gov. Arnold I. Palacios’ veto on Sections 604 and 713 of the budget law during a special session Friday, Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said yesterday that her allegiance is to the people of the CNMI and not to Palacios.

“I have no allegiance to anybody, but the citizens who call the CNMI home,” said Babauta during a press conference in her office.

The senator called for the press briefing to explain further the reasons why she voted “no” to Senate floor leader Corina L. Magofna’s (Ind-Saipan) motion to override Palacios’ veto.

Section 604 refers to revised CNMI ARPA Spending Plan, while Section 713 pertains to giving access to the Legislature to the Munis Fi-

nancial Management Information System of the CNMI government.

With four senators voting “yes,” two voting “no,” and three absences, the motion to override the veto did not pass the Senate.

Both Babauta and Sen. Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Rota) voted “no.”

At the press briefing yesterday, Babauta described the override attempt itself as “an exercise in futility.”

Babauta said the CNMI Constitution’s rule on overriding a gubernatorial veto requires two thirds of votes in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, and that means six votes in the Senate and 14 in the House.

Also, there is deadline on

how soon to pass an override vote and Babauta said the 60th day mark was last Saturday—the day after the Senate session.

Babauta said even if she voted “yes” for the sake of being in solidarity with other senators present that day, it was an exercise in futility as the time to act on the bill expires the next day. She said the House wouldn’t even have an opportunity to look at the bill.

“The timing of it just didn’t make sense to me. And that’s why I could not have voted yes on that,” the senator said.

In response to a question during the briefing, Babauta acknowledged she did not raise the expiration issue during the session. She said it could have been that it was overlooked.



Babauta

LOCALS

From page 1

local individuals [either]. We are waiting for investigators to determine whether these local individuals will be charged,” he said.

The 27 individuals who tried to enter Guam illegally have already been charged by the federal government. These individuals remain in Guam and are currently awaiting transfer from Guam to Saipan as they will be tried before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Babauta explained that U.S. Homeland Security Investigators have taken over the case

and continue to investigate the matter. HSEM is currently waiting for their full report and will disseminate that information to the public to spread awareness.

“We are now just waiting for investigators to file their report. We want to share this information with the community so that they know, should they see anything suspicious, to call [the Department of Public Safety] and let them know. Then we will take it from there. We want the public to also be vigilant and if they see anything suspicious, report it, and let the law enforcement know so we can stop this kind of incidents and keep it from becoming an in-

ternational issue,” he said.

Babauta said this is the first case of this kind that HSEM has gotten involved with. The federal government has charged and sentenced numerous Chinese nationals over the last few months for similar incidences.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the 27 Chinese nationals were intercepted upon their unauthorized arrival into Guam in the last two weeks. Of that number, 21 were intercepted last Saturday while the other six were intercepted over a week ago.

Their arrival was intercepted at Ritidian Point in the northern part of Guam. The Chinese nationals had been

The senator said prior to the session, she did get copies of the records from the House and the Senate.

Babauta reiterated what she had stated on the floor during Friday’s session.

She said with respect to Section 604, a House bill, which has already passed the House, addresses that directly by requiring the administration to report any non-local—meaning all federal funding that arrives—to be reported to the Legislature.

Regarding Section 713, Babauta said there is also currently a House bill that addresses that specifically.

She said if the override passes, it only brings them to the end of this fiscal year, but if they pass the two House bills, it will permanently require and address the concerns with respect to the particular two sections of the amended budget bill that was line-item by Palacios.

transported to Guam from Saipan on vessels owned by CNMI residents. The boats intercepted Saturday were making their way back to Saipan but were diverted to Rota.

While investigations are currently ongoing, enforcement personnel believe these Chinese nationals travelled by boat because they wanted to avoid immigration processes that were anticipated if travel was completed by commercial plane.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security noted that the individuals were in various immigration statuses including long-term overstay from conditional parole, or under expired work visas.

without a genuine connection to our community. This lack of authentic involvement raises doubts about his understanding of our unique needs and aspirations,” the petition states.

“Appointing an outsider not only feels demeaning but also disregards the importance of keeping the workforce local. We kindly request that you thoroughly review the concerns raised in this petition and give careful attention to the voices and sentiments of the Rota community during your decision-making process. It is essential to prioritize the welfare and aspirations of our community in the governance of the Commonwealth Ports Authority,” the petition adds.

Palacios nominated Jorgensen to fill the Rota seat on the CPA board that was previously occupied by Barrie C. Toves.

PETITION

From page 1

“We, the undersigned residents and concerned members of Rota, hereby submit this petition to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Mr. Bruce Jorgensen to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors. We firmly believe that Mr. Jorgensen’s nomination is invalid and an insult to the people of Rota, and we urge you to reconsider this appointment,” the petition stated.

Among the reasons the petition cited in opposing Jorgensen’s appointment is his alleged lack of active community participation.

“Mr. Jorgensen is not an active member of the Rota community and has not demonstrated any significant involvement since the late mayor Prudencio T. Man-

glona’s tenure during the 1980s when he served as a legal advisor. While he briefly participated in the transition team for the governor and lieutenant governor, this limited engagement does not establish a genuine connection or understanding of the challenges faced by our community,” the petition stated.

The petition also expressed concerns that the nomination may be influenced by political differences between the previous and current administrations.

“Bypassing qualified and competent Rota residents who possess the knowledge and profound understanding of our unique challenges raises questions about the intent behind this nomination,” the petition said.

Lastly, the petition raises the concern of Jorgensen’s questionable residence.

“Mr. Jorgensen claims to be a Rota voter but does not

reside on the island. In Mr. Jorgensen’s appointment to CPA board, it indicates a post office box number in our Rota Postal Office; however, in a close-knit community like Rota, where everyone knows one another, we believe that Mr. Jorgensen is utilizing a false postal code, thus rendering his claims to being a resident invalid. It is implausible that he meets the residency requirements set by the election commission,” they said.

Aside from reconsidering Jorgensen’s nomination and appointment, the petition wants the Senate to launch an investigation into Jorgensen.

“We believe that further investigation is necessary to understand the intent behind Mr. Jorgensen’s claim of residency. It appears that his appointment may be driven by ulterior motives, and we are concerned that he is falsely representing Rota

\$85K

From page 1

salary exceeding the \$65,175 cap set by the Compensation Adjustment Act.

“Mr. Kingman will be receiving \$85,000 per annum,” Palacios said.

The governor said he is also advising the chairman of the Civil Service Commission of this certification.

Earlier, Torres’ defense team petitioned Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita to invalidate the contract between Kingman and the OAG, which had hired him as special prosecutor to assist in prosecuting the case against the former governor. Kingman is on a \$50,000 retainer as special prosecutor.

CUC

From page 1

meeting last Friday, Watson said it was discovered during the CUC water crew’s routine operations that the hatch on top of the Dandan Tank had been opened, which is concerning.

Using best management practices, they isolated the tank to prevent any of that water, if it had been contaminated or somebody had fallen in, from reaching customers, he said.

“We also made provisions to route water from another service area as much as we could to limit the affected persons or fast affected customers,” the manager said.

He said they contacted CUC’s Compliance and Safety Department and the Department of Public Safety to investigate.

Watson said their laboratory personnel took samples of water from the surface of the reservoir and did multiple chemical analysis on it. The manager said the results of the bacteriological tests take 18-24 hours to get, so they left the tank isolated during that time.

He said the results of one of the tests indicated that everything was good. Watson said they investigated the inside of the reservoir and determined that there was no sign that anything had been introduced into the water, which is another good sign.

“But we didn’t want to take any precaution. So we let the analysis play out,” he said.

The following day, Friday, the results came back from samples at the base of the tank going out into the distribution.

Watson said the results

Torres’ counsel in the petition asserted that the special prosecutor contract with the OAG is void because it fails to comply with the Commonwealth procurement regulations.

Norita, however, declined to rule or address the merits of Torres’ request for a declaratory ruling that Kingman’s contract with the OAG invalid.

Torres recently filed a petition with the Superior Court to set aside Norita’s decision in the matter.

In April 2022, the OAG charged Torres with offenses alleging misconduct in office. Last February, the OAG hired Kingman to serve as special prosecutor in the case, pursuant to a sole-source contractual engagement.

of the test for coliform was negative, which means there was no coliform bacteria in the samples. Watson said the samples taken the day before the discovery and all those results were without coliform bacteria as well.

“The water was safe. No coliform bacteria [was found] in our distribution system,” he said.

They did detect the presence of coliform on the surface water samples.

“And just to try to explain the process of sampling, you have to drop a sample into the water from above and draw it up,” he said.

Watson said the presence of coliform from the surface could have been caused by something blown in through that open hatch or even in the process in taking a sample itself.

He said when they got that positive result for the presence of coliform, they followed up with a confirmation sample.

“And we are waiting for that results now,” the manager said.

He said they contacted the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to get their confirmation on how CUC should proceed. Watson said that BECQ agreed with him about the other steps they were taking and that CUC didn’t need to issue a boil water notice.

“But we thought it was prudent to do a precautionary and precautionary means it’s basically up to the customers. Even if the risk is very slight, there is still a possibility,” he said.

Watson said the tank is secured and the hatch is closed and has been padlocked.

Last Friday at noon, CUC announced that the precautionary boil water notice is no longer in effect.

Bridge Capital donates \$1.5K to concert fundraiser



From left, Ross Manglona, resident executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office; IAO intern Joshua Villagomez; IAO cultural specialist Melanie T. Wennio; Bart Jackson, vice president/general manager Bridge Capital; and Music of the Marianas Association treasurer Gus Litulumar.

Water service outage in San Vicente TSA on Thursday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, June 29, 2023, in the San Vicente Tank Service Area, from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

■ **Area(s) affected:** Southern part of San Vicente; Upper Dandan Homestead, Naftan and Obyan area;

■ **Purpose:** The scheduled water outage is necessary for Water Operators of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to repair two main service lateral leaks on Sunrise Place and on Dandan Road near Dandan Market;

■ **Roadway(s) affected:** For the safety of our crew, the northbound lane on Dandan Road will be closed. Motorist are advised to use alternative routes or to use caution while driving in the area.

Customers in the area will experience low to no water pressure from 8:30am to 3:30pm on Thursday. Allow one to two hours after for water to pressurize back into the main line.

For more information, contact our automated CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or contact our Customer Service at (670) 664- 4282 or visit our website at www.cucgov.org and monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates at <http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>. (PR)

Investment firm Bridge Capital is a silver sponsor of the upcoming Un Marianas Dinner Concert by donating \$1,500 to the Music of the Marianas Association as part of its efforts to assist the Marianas during times of natural disaster.

The Un Marianas Dinner Concert, which will be held at the Aqua Resort Club poolside on July 14, is intended to raise typhoon relief funds for Rota and Guam, which were recently hit by the Category 4 storm Typhoon Mawar. MMA said that Bridge Capital's donation helps the island musicians that have assembled for this cause get closer to their goal of sending construction-related sup-

plies to Guam and Rota.

Tickets to the Un Marianas Dinner Concert are now being sold at \$100 per person throughout the island as MMA volunteers are scouring the villages selling the tickets at the grassroots level.

According to MMA treasurer Gus Litulumar, the efforts being made are similar in nature to Guam's efforts when Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Soudelor hit the CNMI. "Their musicians held a concert in Guam and sent us a ton of tools and construction materials. We want to return the favor with a brotherly gesture of our own," Litulumar said.

This marks the third occa-

sion that Bridge Capital has bestowed their confidence in philanthropic organizations I've been involved with, according to Ross Manglona, resident executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office that is assisting MMA in the coordination efforts.

"It is important to note that

Bridge Capital consistently gives back to our community in a multitude of forms, making them a responsible stakeholder and we must be cognizant of their efforts," Manglona added.

Bart Jackson, Bridge Capital's vice president and general manager, said their company has offices on Guam "and so we empathize with our colleagues there who are currently going through some rather inconvenient times alongside their families. With infrastructure still requiring major repair at this point, we are very happy to present a check in the amount of \$1,500 to MMA and their volunteers as we too experienced similar calamities

not so long ago."

Manglona said the CNMI community is fortunate to have stakeholders like Jackson and his colleagues at Bridge Capital "that actively subscribe to our call for humanitarian assistance."

He said tickets to the dinner concert are selling at a steady pace "giving me confidence that our fundraising efforts will be rather substantial, considering it's a one-night event. I remain confident that our community will come out and support MMA's fundraising endeavor as it's in our island nature. There are early signs it will be a full house that evening at Aqua Resort. One such indicator is the number of early in-kind contributions already received from the private sector." (PR)

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

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SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ **BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.**
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

MOBILE OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| JUNE 2 | Adult Wellness Check Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals Nutrition Assistance Program , As Lito from 8AM - 11:30 AM |
| JUNE 8 | Pride Clinic In collaboration with Pride Marianas for individuals interested in consultation for hormonal therapy, HIV/STD Testing, resources & referrals. Northern Marianas College , As Terlaje from 5PM - 8PM |
| JUNE 13 22 | Child Wellness Check For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals Tanapag Youth Center from 1PM - 4:30PM San Vicente Youth Center from 1PM - 4:30 PM |
| JUNE 28 | Women's Wellness Check For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals New Kagman Market from 8AM - 11:30 AM |

WHAT TO BRING:

- INSURANCE CARD (Medicaid and most private insurances accepted)
- VALID PHOTO ID (Driver's license, Passport, Mayor's ID, etc.)

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Learning goes on for UOG’s future nursing assistants

The devastating aftermath of Typhoon Mawar did not stop some of Guam’s future healthcare workers from continuing their education or entering the workforce, thanks to collaborations between Guam Memorial Hospital and the University of Guam.

All 19 students in the UOG Certified Nursing Assistant Program had five lecture sessions remaining when UOG lost power and water due to the storm, said Marissa Anderson, clinical nurse practitioner and educator who heads the CNA program at UOG.

Dr. Kathryn Wood, interim dean of the School of Health, reached out to Christine Tuquero, GMH nursing administrator. GMH agreed to provide one of its meeting rooms for the CNA program’s remaining class sessions. Once the sessions are complete, CNA students will get trained on actual caregiving at the Skilled Nursing Unit Facility in Barrigada Heights.

Wood and Anderson did not expect all 19 students to continue their classes because storm recovery had taken priority for many Guam residents, but to their surprise, not one of the students dropped out.

Of the 19, two students



Marissa Anderson, clinical nurse practitioner and educator with the University of Guam Certified Nursing Assistant program, first from left, and Jen Salas, who assists Anderson with the program, first from right, are seen with the CNA students outside Guam Memorial Hospital on June 14, 2023. The students are seen in green scrubs, from left, front row: Kaylah Roduk; Arniela Dimabuyu; Kyla Mercado; Yvanna Guzman; Jerene Donato; Samara Cruz; and Nicole Mejia. From left, back row: Brittney Aichem; Hannah Maxino; Tiana Damon; Vince Verango; Jennifer Wiley; Kimberly Besabe; Jessalynn Chiguina; Amy Robert; Ha’ane Wright; and Jomayne Guzman.

had to cope with losing their homes.

Arniela Dimabuyu is one of the CNA students whose home was destroyed. She has lived with her parents and siblings in the home for 18 years, and most of the roof got ripped away, causing damage to the family’s belongings. Her dad has installed a temporary roof cover, so the family didn’t have to move while waiting for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to rebuild the home.

Despite her situation at home, Dimabuyu said she’s even more determined to complete the program so she can gain experience in the health-care field. Ultimately, her goal is to become a registered nurse.

“My family is going through a lot, but I didn’t want that to stop me from finishing the CNA program—especially since I started off strong,” Dimabuyu said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TRAINING ON INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

Evergreen Learning staff Nerine Villagomez conducts a four-hour training on May 13, 2023, on Inclusive Practices, which provided information on the law that protects individuals with disabilities and the different categories of disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The training also engaged participants through meaningful discussions and fostered an understanding of the need to assist all students, especially those with special needs in an inclusive classroom. This training was made possible through funding from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care, and CNMI CCDF Program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

AnazaoHealth Corporation NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that AnazaoHealth Corporation (the “Corporation”), a foreign corporation, is applying for a Certificate of Withdrawal from the CNMI Registrar of Corporations.

Therefore, the Corporation surrenders the authority to transact business in the CNMI and revokes the authority of its registered agent, to accept services on its behalf and appoints the Registrar of Corporations of the CNMI as its agent for service of process in any proceeding based on a cause of action arising during the time it was authorized to transact business in the CNMI.

Quick action on new nursing graduates

Another collaboration between UOG and GMH has led to fast-tracked employment for five of the most recent graduates of the university’s nursing program.

Through the Graduate Nurse Working Permit, five UOG graduates or nearly a third of the nursing program graduates who received their diplomas on May 21, 2023—just two days before Typhoon Mawar hit—have secured jobs at GMH.

The permit allows new graduates to get working right away while waiting for their licensure exam and process to get credentialed as nurses through the Guam Board of Nurse Examiners.

The normal process can take months, but GMH can utilize the working permit in the event of staff shortages, “as was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It usually takes a few months, so that is a very quick turnaround. I sent the memo one day, and GMH hospital administrator Lillian Posadas and Nursing Services administrator Christine Tuquero—sent a memo forward and boom. It’s done!” said Wood.

Wood noted that Posadas and Tuquero are both alumni of UOG.

The collaboration shows that, said Wood, “Tritons are helping Tritons.” (UOG)

Six from the CNMI graduate from Boise State University

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

Six students from the CNMI have completed their studies and turned their tassels at the recent graduation ceremony at Boise State University in Idaho, signifying the end of their college journey.

Both Mariette Elena Ogo Barcinas and Joshua Abragan graduated with magna cum laude honors, while Jodeen Masga Fredrick and Adina Christiana Maratita Reyes both graduated with cum laude honors. The other graduates from the CNMI are Manuel DLG Sablan and Joanie Paraiso. Both Reyes and Barcinas are from Rota, while Abragan, Sablan, Fredrick, and Paraiso are from Saipan.

"Despite the challenges of the pandemic and switching majors, I managed to graduate on time with high honors, and I am so relieved. I feel so proud of myself and of my other peers for making it through. All that effort was definitely worth it," said 21-year-old Abragan, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology: Human Performance and Exercise Science Emphasis, with a minor in Psychology. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Exercise Physiology at the University of Delaware.

While in school, he will be interning at Christiana Care Hospital and the University of Delaware clinic. These will involve working in various areas such as cardiac rehabilitation, pulmonary rehabilitation,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Joshua Abragan, Adina Reyes, Mariette Barcinas, Jodeen Fredrick, Joanie Paraiso, and Manuel DLG Sablan.

exercise training/counseling, renal rehabilitation, cancer rehabilitation, Parkinson's disease rehabilitation, and cardiac diagnostic testing.

For Sablan, who graduated with a master's degree, he said he is glad about finishing the course, "but it was really a bittersweet moment as I enjoyed the challenge brought by coursework and the connections I've made through school. Now that I'm finished I am excited to continue with my career and provide value to our community."

Now armed with a master's degree in Accountancy, Sablan, who is currently an accountant for JG Sablan Ice & Water, Inc., is looking forward to attaining a CPA license and practice in the CNMI.

"I would like to thank my friends and family for their continued support and wise advice, but I would most especially like to thank my parents as they had given me the opportunity and resources neces-

sary to succeed," said Sablan.

Fredrick, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology, said that graduating is always a great feeling. "I feel very accomplished and proud of myself, especially knowing the road to get this degree was not the smoothest ride. Reaching this milestone in my life feels amazing, and it only makes me want to go on and pursue more. I just want to thank my parents, family (both near and far), and friends for always encouraging me to keep going and to never give up. They definitely made these past few years manageable and fun," said Fredrick. "Right now, I'm just planning to secure a job relating to my field, and just enjoy life as it comes." She has plans to obtain a master's degree in about a year or so.

Barcinas, who majored in Psychology and Sociology with a minor in Business, not only graduated with honors but also packed a number of accomplishments during her

college career, including helping establish the Boise State CNMI Club; helping build a school for underprivileged children in Jamaica; and interning at the Idaho State Board of Education. Barcinas was also an orientation leader; a peer mentor for TRiO Rising Scholars; and a member of the Student Philanthropy Board, Beta Gamma Sigma, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Psi Chi Honor Society, and Zeta Tau Alpha.

When asked on how she feels to finally graduate, she said, "While I feel a sense of relief, I am definitely going to miss Boise State and the beautiful memories I made there. Throughout my undergraduate years, we've built a strong CNMI community, and I am also going to miss the people who kept me inspired and

warm when I needed it most. I've grown immensely through the challenges encountered, and they have only strengthened me in ways that continue to propel me forward."

The establishment of the Boise State CNMI Club was also due to the efforts of Reyes, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology, minor in Psychology. Together with Barcinas and with the help of another student, they established Boise's CNMI Club.

"Being a graduate has filled me with excitement. It has marked an ending to one chapter I will forever remember and cherish, but it also allows me to continue onto a new chapter that may be filled with endless opportunities... I hope to continue pursuing a higher degree in the field of physical therapy and I plan on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Joanie Paraiso, Adina Reyes, Joshua Abragan, Mariette Barcinas, and Jodeen Fredrick. Not in photo is Manny Sablan.

CNMI learns how to salvage disaster-hit books, library resources

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent

To help libraries, museums and other community organizations preserve or recover documents, files, maps and books in the case of a natural disaster, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library partnered with the University of Hawaii in Manoa Museum Studies Graduate certificate program to bring a free Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Workshop to Saipan last Wednesday and Thursday.

The two-day workshop that also included risk assessment, emergency planning and response, took place at the JKPL library in Susupe on June 21-22, 2023, drawing a good turnout, with about 20 participants from different organizations across the islands.

The workshop was taught by Liane Naauao, who is a paper conservator and instructor from the Center for Pacific Island Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

"It's been wonderful to



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Paper conservator and instructor from the Center for Pacific Island Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Liane Naauao, demonstrates how to salvage a book damaged by water during the Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Workshop at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

work with the director of the library and their staff," said Noelle Kahanu, an associate specialist at the University of Hawaii Manoa, American Studies Department, and one of the coordinators of the event. "The intent was to do a salvage workshop...disaster preparedness and salvage. ... Perhaps in the future, if some-

one else is in need they [participants] can pass along and share what they learned from this," said Kahanu.

Aside from the plane tickets and lodging, which were funded by JKPL, this project is funded by the University of Hawaii's Center for Pacific Island Studies. "... We were able to bring over

a contingent of people from Hawaii, both trainer like Liane, but also some of our Hawaii-based cohort members from the institute, so a total of seven of us travelled from Hawaii, and there's two from Guam and all of these participants from Saipan."

Naputi said she is grateful to the team. "I'm very thank-

ful and appreciative for my instructors to be able to come out here to teach us and to share this knowledge with my colleagues and the rest of the community members."

She hopes to be able to conduct more trainings and cascade the learning from this workshop to others, especially to community members who are interested in preserving rare collections and documents.

Naputi said it wasn't just learning how to preserve things, but the training had a lot to do with the thought of preserving the islands and families' legacy, some of which are in documents, certain maps, and books.

"...In the event of another typhoon coming across our way again, we are better prepared and better equipped to save as much as we can in our collections, especially our Pacific books, our rare books, our Pacific collection area."

Naputi said the UH team also brought disaster kits for the library to help better prepare for natural disasters.

One of the workshop par-

working toward a marketing degree. But before continuing on, I hope to take some time to travel and explore more of the world," Reyes said.

Reyes also was recognized as being a part of the Dean's List with Highest Honors Fall 2019, the Dean's List with Highest Honors Spring 2020, Dean's List with Honors with 2021. She is currently working as Boise State's dining marketing coordinator.

Paraiso, who finished a degree in Integrated Media and Strategic Communication Emphasis in Integrated Media (Broadcast TV major), said that graduating is certainly a joyous celebration, but she also feels personally sad "because most of my gigs for broadcast and live events ran through the university. I had shows to produce and direct every week for class and my job in Boise State Esports, so I miss the work grind." Aside from her work on the Boise State Esports broadcasting team during her college career, Paraiso is currently employed as a stagehand with CP Audio and Remote Tech for Lotus Communication Corp. "I hope to continue working in the broadcast industry and live events for anything media that ranges from concerts, to TV, radio, and other things. ...I want to thank my teacher Nathan Snyder, Bryce Cornwell, and Brandon Watkins for being so welcoming and teaching me everything during my college life. They are literally the best people to work and be with almost everyday. They allowed me to learn and teach me everything that I asked about broadcast, live events, and any random thing."

Participants, Northern Marianas Humanities Council archive manager Roberto Santos, said, "I was learning a lot about salvaging materials that you might find in any archive, library, museum, record system. ...In my field and in the field of library science and record keeping, this is very valuable skill to have and very valuable knowledge. And in the preservation of our people and our legacy and our identity, these documents, records etc. are all evidence and things that record our culture and our history and identity, so preserving it is very important."

Ray Jr. Deleon Guerrero a computer specialist for the Pacific Room at JKPL, said he learned many new things when it comes to preserving books and documentation.

Rommell Buenaflores, a multi-media specialist for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa also noted that their private library had undergone serious damage during the past typhoons, and they had to throw out so many books, so he found the workshop valuable.

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Spread the news: US economy is strong under Biden

It's a puzzling dichotomy: Many Americans remain down on the economy even as it continues to strengthen. Stocks hit bull market territory this month—up 20% since October. Even better, the job market remains a juggernaut. Employers added 339,000 jobs in May, way beyond the 180,000 that economists expected. This marked the 29th straight month of robust job growth.

Keeping Wall Street and Main Street humming should seal reelection for most presidents, but Joe Biden's approval ratings remain mired in the low 40s. Oddly, Biden's poor poll numbers don't sync with his impressive economic record.

The unemployment rate was 6.3% when Biden took office. It has dropped steadily and remained below 4% for the 16th consecutive month—a historic stretch unmatched since the 1960s. At the same time, the unemployment rate for Black Americans reached the lowest level in recorded history in April, before ticking up to 5.6% last month.

Overall, the country added 13 million jobs since Biden took office—more than in any president's entire four-year term, let alone in just over two years. During Donald Trump's calamitous one term, three million jobs were lost and the unemployment rate early in the pandemic hit 14.7%.

Biden's booming labor market increased incomes for many Americans, especially the poorest workers. Here's another oddity: Most Americans feel good about their personal situation, but remain pessimistic about the economy.

Gas prices often shape Americans' economic views. Everyone was miserable when gas prices topped \$5 a gallon last June. But a year later, the average price of gas in Pennsylvania has dropped nearly 30% to \$3.65 a gallon. Yet many remain glum.

Indeed, high prices for other goods stretched budgets and soured the mood for many in the country. But inflation has dropped by more than half since hitting a peak of 9.1% in June 2022. Prices rose by an annual rate of 4% in May—the lowest in two years.

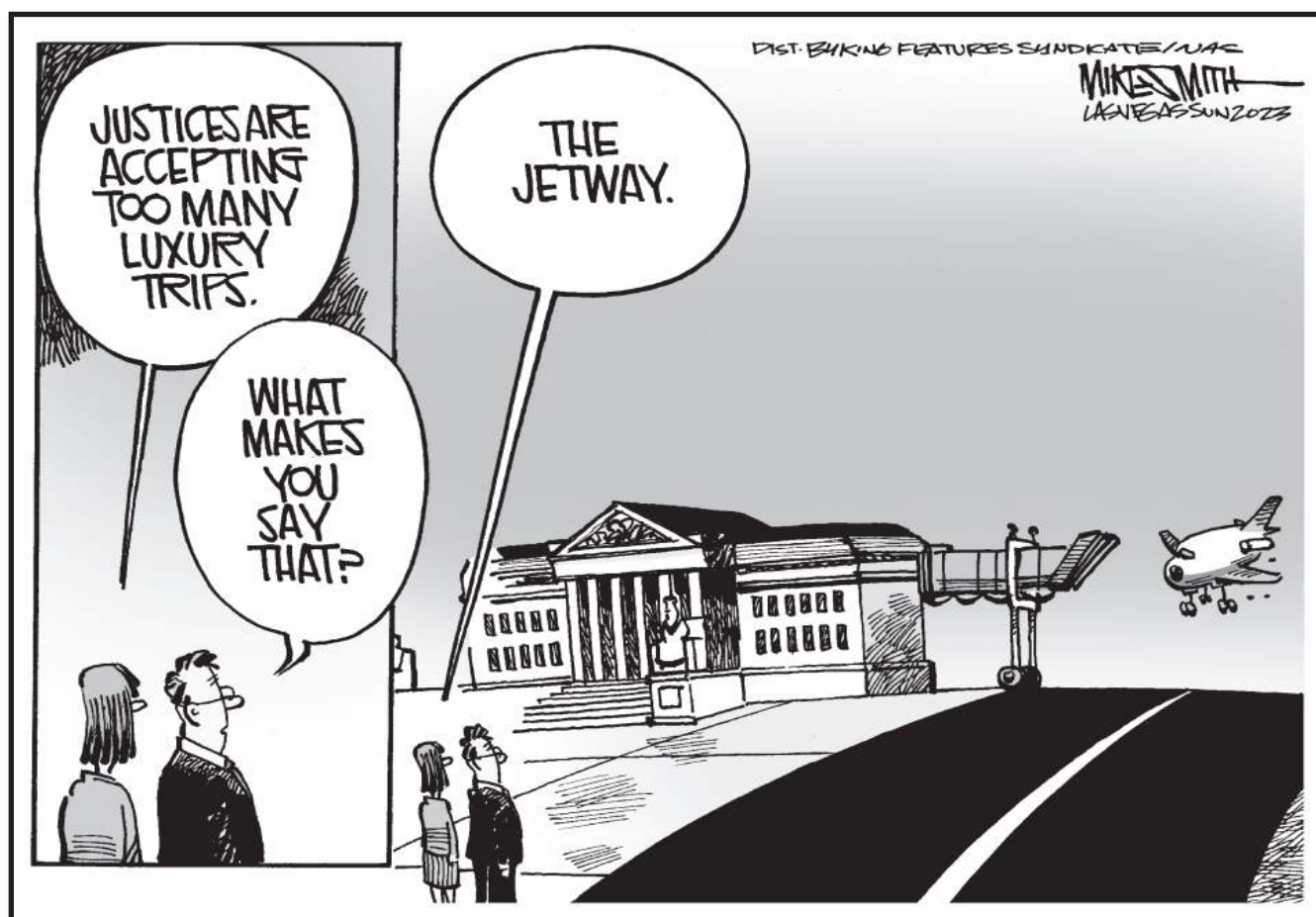
As prices cooled, the Federal Reserve paused the steady rise in interest rates that have been increased 10 times in the past 15 months. Despite talk of a recession, the economy remains resilient.

All presidents get blame or credit for the economy, even though much is beyond their control. That has been true for Biden. Supply-chain pressures coming out of the pandemic were the main contributor to domestic inflation as pent-up demand exceeded supply. Corporate price gouging added to the cost hikes. Then came Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, which even the conservative Cato Institute said added to inflation and helped boost gasoline prices.

To be sure, trillions in government spending during the pandemic by both the Biden and Trump administrations helped fuel inflation. But it also helped avoid a catastrophic depression, according to liberal and conservative economists.

Government spending comes with other lasting benefits. Biden's \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill includes \$1.6 billion to repair crumbling bridges in Pennsylvania, including the MLK

See SPREAD on Page 9



A year after Dobbs, leaving abortion to states isn't working

“It is time to heed the Constitution, and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives,” Justice Samuel Alito wrote in his ruling last June overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Such democratic sentiment was a staple of the abortion debate long before the court's Republican majority overthrew *Roe* with its ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. After all, who were these unelected judges making decisions for the American people? Contentious, complicated issues belonged in state legislatures, where elected representatives, close to the people, subject to their influence and electoral veto, would render a more judicious outcome.

In a concurring opinion in *Dobbs*, Justice Brett Kavanaugh declared that the court would no longer meddle in the debate. “Instead, those difficult moral and policy questions will be decided, as the Constitution dictates, by the people and their elected representatives through the constitutional processes of democratic self-government.”

One year after *Dobbs*, how is all that “democratic self-government” going?

In Wisconsin, the reversal of *Roe* left the state subject to an 1849 law banning abortion outright. (The 1850 population of Wisconsin was 305,000.) The state legislature, which is dominated by Republicans as a result of one of the most extreme gerrymanders in the country, has not overturned the 1849 law and has rejected calls to legalize abortion. In March, some Republican Assembly members proposed modifying the 1849 ban to create exceptions, but only for rape and incest and to “clarify” when doctors could perform an abortion to save the life of a mother. Both the Democratic governor and Republican Senate majority leader declared the proposal a nonstarter.

The legislature's proposal was in no way a response to the will of the people. In a decade of polls taken prior to the *Dobbs* ruling by Marquette University Law School, roughly 60% of Wisconsin voters regularly said abortion should be legal in all or most cases. In a poll of likely voters taken in Wisconsin last September, only 37% supported a ban with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother. Only 5% said they wanted a total ban.

The irony, of course, is not only that the Republican legislature, “the people's elected representatives,” don't care what the people want. It's that the legislators are insulated from electoral consequences for their failure to represent the whole public. The state's legislative maps are expressly designed to deliver Republicans almost two thirds of legislative seats with about half of the overall state vote. The outlandish gerrymander that makes it possible to disenfranchise so many voters was blessed by none other than Alito and four other Republican appointees to the Supreme Court.

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was an editor for *the Week*, a writer for *Rolling Stone*, a communications consultant and a political media strategist.



How are “the people's elected representatives” faring in delivering popular sovereignty on abortion elsewhere?

Republicans in Ohio approved a ballot measure—scheduled for August when turnout is expected to be low—to raise the threshold for passing statewide ballot measures from a simple majority to a super majority of 60%. As the Associated Press reported, the August measure “is aimed at thwarting an effort to enshrine abortion rights in the state's constitution this fall.” The move to seize power from the people is also backed by the gun lobby, another minority faction that relies on Republican legislators to enact unpopular laws.

Elsewhere, Missouri Republicans are eager to counter the popular will in similar fashion, as are Republicans in North Dakota. Republicans in Arkansas have already succeeded in making the ballot initiative process more cumbersome in order to reduce the influence of voters.

Roe v. Wade always struck me as a pretty sketchy act of constitutional legerdemain. But as a political compromise it was both brilliant and far more credible than the current Supreme Court's return of power to “the people's representatives.” *Roe* acknowledged the nation's overall ambivalence about abortion while giving women the power to decide on an individual, case by case, basis.

Roe was also popular. It still is. In a Pew Research Center national poll last fall, 62% said abortion should be legal in all or most cases; 57% disapproved of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe*, with 43% strongly disapproving.

Alito's co-partisans in state legislatures do not appear terribly interested in what individuals, let alone “the people,” think about abortion rights or much of anything else. Time and again the Republican Party has shown it is committed to imposing minority rule, replacing “the people,” the polyglot of America, with the chosen minority that is MAGA.

Government of the people, by the people, for the people? One year after the momentous overturning of *Roe*, returning the issue of abortion to the people's representatives has proved to be just another joke on democracy.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The term ‘American exceptionalism’ used to mean something good, now it means something deadly

Those of a certain age may recall the concept of American exceptionalism. It referred to the belief that the United States was unique among nations due to its values and the manner in which those values translated into noble policies and actions. Generally, this uniqueness referred to an economic system producing a high standard of living, a legal system based on due process of law, the freedoms embedded in our Constitution and even a foreign policy claimed to be both strong and peaceful. How accurate that belief was over time is, of course, varied.

I recently thought about the concept of American exceptionalism after reading about two mass shootings in Serbia. The day after the first shooting, many Serbians said that these were the kind of things one expects in the U.S. not Serbia. As Americans have suffered more than one mass shooting per day, often defined as four or more people killed or injured in one incident, the Serbian response is hardly surprising. Seven countries, including the United Kingdom, France and even Venezuela have issued travel advisories for their citizens thinking of traveling to the U.S. because of the prevalence of gun violence.

It is mass murder by firearm that makes us exceptional today. Do you remember when we could easily call to mind the name of the places where horrific mass shootings took place, such as at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, or Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida? Now they occur too frequently to remember the names and places. A bank in Louisville, Kentucky; another elementary school in Uvalde, Texas; a mall in Allen, Texas; a concert in Las Vegas or a neighbor’s house

in Cleveland, Texas.

It is time—no, way past time—to hold accountable those who created a climate in which mass shootings are more than everyday occurrences and the daily incidents of neighborhood gun violence grind on with inevitability. It is time to lay blame where it belongs beyond just the shooters, not to make a debate point but to educate ourselves so as to reject the continuing arguments of those who have proven so consistently wrong over the years.

Recall the catchy phrase “if we outlaw guns, only outlaws will have guns”? Well, that is certainly no problem as all sorts of people have all sorts of guns now. There are more guns than people in the U.S. now, and assuming even in Texas that toddlers don’t yet own guns, that just means more for the rest of us. But that’s good, we’re told, because good people with guns will deter the bad folks from committing acts like mass murders.

How’s that working out?

The gun lobby tells us that guns are not the problem and the causes of mass violence include, but are not limited to: mental health issues, people who anger too quickly, economic disparities and domestic violence. Undoubtedly all these factors and others play a role, but those conditions exist in the other countries in the world that don’t approach the level of gun violence we see in the U.S. What really distinguishes us is the volume of our guns, their lethality and the ridiculously permissive approach the misinterpretation of the Second Amendment and the advocacy of the NRA and other such groups has produced.

A recent example of the difference guns make occurred in An-

It is mass murder by firearm that makes us exceptional today.

By STEVEN P. GROSSMAN

The Baltimore Sun

Steven P. Grossman is the Dean Julius Isaacson professor emeritus at the University of Baltimore School of Law.



necy, France on June 8th. A knife wielder went on a rampage in a playground stabbing six people, including four children. All apparently will survive. Do you think the result would be the same if he used a gun? In France, the rate of gun ownership per capita is one sixth the rate it is in the U.S.

Whether it is the weapon of choice for robberies and car jackings, the best way to exact revenge on a real or perceived enemy, a sure way to take one’s own life or an illustration of when anger is not managed—such as in the recent fatal shootings in Annapolis over a parking dispute—is there any doubt that guns often turn a bad situation into a lethal one? It does not appear that humans will soon be free of emotions (such as anger and jealousy) or better at controlling them; or free of health issues, such as severe mental illness, or the conditions that lead to criminal behavior or even just carelessness. And so, we desperately need to make manifestations of such behaviors less harmful. At least stop producing those firearms of no value, that make it far more likely that a shooting will be fatal or high-capacity magazines that do the same.

We must stop being dissuaded from saving lives by arguments that are either irrelevant or have been proven wrong time and time again. The alternative is to wait for the next massacre using firearms and the expressions of sorrow and sympathy that follow.

If we can meaningfully reduce gun violence in America, that would indeed be exceptional.

Michelle Wu anything but most ‘transparent’ mayor in history

By JOE BATTENFELD

BOSTON HERALD

Progressive darling Michelle Wu, who promised transparency and honesty when she was elected mayor, is emerging as the least transparent mayor in recent Boston history.

She’s got nothing on Marty Walsh and Tom Menino, both old-school mayors who may have had flaws but at least followed public records laws. The late Menino was probably Boston’s most accessible mayor ever.

The latest evidence of Wu’s shady relation to the truth is her reaction to the disturbing news that a 32-year-old woman posed as a Boston high school student while enrolled in at least three schools.

“We don’t have any evidence at this point of any harm or risk to the young people. Thank goodness,” the ever-smiling Wu said.

Really? A woman in her 30s with possible criminal intent enrolls as a student and there’s no “risk” to the kids?

How could Wu possibly determine that? Did you ask alarmed parents for their input? The incident clearly raised concerns about the safety and security of students and teachers in Boston Public Schools.

Even her own schools superintendent, Mary Skipper, issued a statement saying she was “deeply troubled that an adult would breach the trust of our school communities” by posing as a student.

“This appears to be a case of extremely sophisticated fraud,” Skipper added.

But what-me-worry Wu isn’t apparently that concerned.

Then there’s Wu’s flip flop on the highly publicized traffic accident her Boston police vehicle was involved in.

Wu’s SUV was hit by another car in a Roslindale intersection where the police officer driving her used its lights and siren to get through a red light.

After initially saying she wasn’t aware of department policy on her car using lights and siren to get through traffic, she now proclaims that it’s “standard practice” for emergency lights and sirens to be activated when transporting officials and dignitaries through dense Boston traffic.

“Everyone else is stuck in traffic and that is something that is unusual and I think should and is used sparingly, but the reality of being mayor and one of the unique parts of this job is I do have to get all around the city in all different locations on my calendar,” Wu said in her regularly scheduled appearance on WGBH radio, adding that “sometimes when there is an important commitment to get to those lights and sirens go on.”

This is classic Wu-speak, something she has perfected as mayor. And she’s also perfected finding her “safe spaces” to speak—like public radio interviews—rather than face hostile media.

Keep in mind that Wu said two weeks ago right after the accident she wasn’t even aware the lights and siren had been turned on because she was doing work on her phone. She also said during the GBH interview that she had viewed several different traffic cam views of the accident.

The city has refused or just ignored media requests for traffic camera footage of the accident. In fact the Wu administration frequently flouts public records law by delaying or refusing to release requested documents or camera footage.

This despite promises during her campaign to “make government as accessible and transparent as possible.”

But when Wu prepared to announce a controversial decision to move the O’Bryant School of Math and Science from Rox-

bury to largely white West Roxbury, she hardly was transparent.

The mayor sprang the news at a press conference this month after issuing an “embargoed” press release that the media was barred from releasing for a day—a tactic Wu uses often to shore up support and suppress opposition for a controversial announcement.

SPREAD

From Page 8

Drive bridge near the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Likewise, Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act is helping to reduce prescription drug prices for seniors, while combating climate change through funding and incentives for clean energy programs.

Biden has racked up a number of other achievements—including the passage of several bipartisan measures, such as the recent debt ceiling deal—without getting much credit. In fact, exit polling of recent midterm voters in several states, including Pennsylvania, found that about 75% couldn’t name a specific presidential accomplishment.

Many say Biden does a poor job messaging, while others worry about his age. But his quiet competence is a welcome contrast to Trump’s chaotic carnival barking.

At the same time, the mainstream media seizes on negative or superficial stories, such as when Biden fell at the Air Force Academy graduation earlier this month.

Of course, much of the country lives in a misinformation bubble, led by Fox News, long a destructive force in American politics. The right-wing outlet is not so much a news network as an extension of the Republican Party, complete with fact-free talking points, including a recent on-air caption that called Biden a “wannabe dictator.”

Meanwhile, the left-leaning MSNBC passes the day obsessing about Trump, as if his mounting legal troubles were the only thing happening in the world.

More broadly, good news does not grab the media’s or viewers’ attention. Hence Biden’s weak poll numbers despite his strong economic record.

As 2024 approaches, it is imperative that those of us who pay attention—and who don’t want to risk four more years under a President Trump—start spreading the good news.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Buenas Rep. Vicente Camacho: Congratulation on the passage of your most valued House Bill 23-15 that aims to stop corruption among government officials. You have shown the community who you are as a valued representative who care about the well-being of the people you serve. I believe Gov. Palacios and Lt. Gov. Apatang






appreciate this significant bill to continue their goal in marching on the right path.

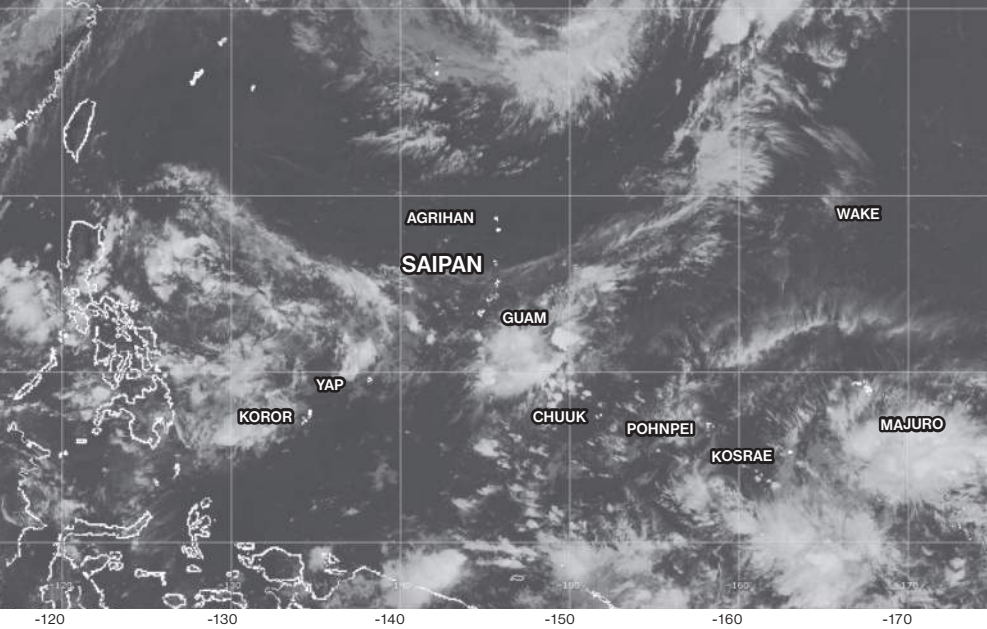
On behalf of the CNMI community, we thank all the representatives who joined in the passage of this significant bill.

God bless us,

Marie S. Castro
via email

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| TODAY | | WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Mostly cloudy | | A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny | | Partly sunny | | Mostly sunny | | Mostly sunny | |
| 84° | 79° | 87° | 79° | 86° | 79° | 86° | 79° | 86° | 79° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 7:59 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered to numerous showers east and southeast of the Marianas, moving westward. These are associated with a trade-wind trough approaching the islands. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 6 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲▼°F |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------|------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 86° / 80° | |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 78° | |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° | |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° | |
| Pohnpei | Showers | 86° / 77° | |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 85° / 81° | |
| Majuro | Isolated Thunderstorms | 87° / 81° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Thursday | 5:49 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Friday | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Saturday | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 12:29 AM | 12:57 PM |
| Wednesday | - | 1:04 AM | 1:46 PM |
| Thursday | - | 1:41 AM | 2:39 PM |
| Friday | - | 2:23 AM | 3:36 PM |
| Saturday | - | 3:10 AM | 4:37 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲▼°F |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------|------|
| Auckland | Isolated Thunderstorms | 58° / 51° | |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 104° / 80° | |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 87° / 81° | |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy/Wind | 85° / 75° | |
| London | Cloudy | 73° / 62° | |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 77° / 60° | |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 90° / 80° | |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | 59° / 45° | |
| Miami | Scattered Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° | |
| New York | Thunderstorms | 79° / 69° | |
| Osaka | Mostly Cloudy | 87° / 76° | |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 59° | |
| Busan | Thunderstorms | 76° / 70° | |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 91° / 67° | |
| Salem | Thunderstorms | 89° / 72° | |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | 63° / 54° | |
| Seoul | Showers | 83° / 72° | |
| Tokyo | Cloudy | 81° / 74° | |
| Washington, DC | Strong Storms | 91° / 69° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 2:07 AM | High Tide | 1.99 | |
| 8:59 AM | Low Tide | 0.90 | |
| 2:20 PM | High Tide | 1.49 | |
| 8:05 PM | Low Tide | 0.91 | |

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily | UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:50AM | Daily |
| UA156 | 6:55PM | 7:40PM | 1, 4 effective June 5 | UA112 | 5:00PM | 5:50PM | 1, 4 effective June 5 |
| SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 | UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily | UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau | UA189 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:15PM | 9:10PM | Daily | PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| | | | | UA192 | 11:50PM | 5:35AM+1 | 2, 5 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ626/703 | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN | UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam | UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau | UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) | | | | INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily | 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| OZ626 | 4:20AM | 7:55AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 | TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily | OZ625 | 9:25PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily | 7C3405 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC. | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|
| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022 | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily | 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun | 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily | 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | GUAM TO ROTA | | | |
| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily | 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily | 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily | 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily | 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily | 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily | 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

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Business

BOH recognized with bronze US President's Volunteer Service Award

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii was honored on June 13 with a bronze level U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award at the JA Volunteer Summit, presented by Mercedes-Benz USA in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes select organizations that contributed at least 1,000 Junior Achievement volunteer service hours during the 2021-2022 school year. With 1,081 volunteer hours that year, Bank of Hawaii is the only Hawaii-based company to receive this recognition.

"This national service award for Bank of Hawaii is a reflection of the many bank employees who are passionate about working with youth in our community," said Natalie Fogle, Bank of Hawaii senior vice president and Junior Achievement of Hawaii board member. "Children often have little exposure to money or the impact of responsible money management until meeting our volunteers. Seeing them grasp this important life lesson is why we volunteer."

Bank of Hawaii is committed to volunteering with youth in Hawaii and across the West Pacific region to teach financial literacy. Since 2009, bank employees have focused on leading unique financial educational opportunities, including Smart-Money Lesson Day for middle and high school students and More than Money lessons for elementary-aged students.

The U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award was presented to 65 organizations from across the country this year in acknowledgment of their continued volunteer work despite ongoing limitations due to the pandemic.

"In recent years, the way we



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior Achievement of Hawaii president David Earles presents the award to Natalie Fogle, Bank of Hawaii senior vice president and Junior Achievement of Hawaii Board Member, and Lono Kealoha, Bank of Hawaii vice president and CRA officer.

work hasn't been the only thing that has changed. So has the way we volunteer," said David Earles, Junior Achievement of Hawaii President. "Junior Achievement is committed to finding new and engaging ways for working professionals to volunteer. These award recipients have been exceptional supporters in helping JA find ways

to do this. We greatly appreciate their commitment to the young people we serve."

The annual recognition was created in 2003 by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to honor those who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. (PR)

Mexico imposes a 50% tariff on white corn imports amid trade dispute with US, Canada

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico on Saturday began imposing a 50% tariff on white corn imports, a move the president says looks to boost national production and prevent imports of genetically modified corn.

The measure, published late Friday in the Mexican government's official gazette, will be in force until the end of the year and occurs amid a trade dispute between Mexico and its North American trade partners, Canada and the United States, over genetically modified corn.

White corn was among the basic foods that were exempted from tariffs earlier this year in an attempt by the Mexican government to control inflation. But according to the decree,

the decision "has not generated a significant impact on the decrease in prices in the national market, so it's considered appropriate to eliminate it."

At 5.84% in May, the Mexican government considers inflation more or less under control.

Mexico imports some white corn — the kind used for human consumption — mainly from the United States and South Africa. But since the tariff goes against the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, it could complicate the trade dispute that the country already has with the U.S. and Canada over GM corn.

Mexico wants to restrict GM white corn for human consumption and eventually also

veto GM yellow corn for animal feed. The U.S. and Canada say that would harm trade in the region. Mexico has been importing GM feed corn from the U.S. for years, buying about \$3 billion worth annually.

Both the United States and Canada have said that Mexico's fear of the dangers of genetically modified corn is "not grounded in science."

Earlier this month, Canada said it would join a trade dispute panel that the United States requested over Mexico's proposed limits on imports of genetically modified corn. The U.S. government asked that the dispute process be formally opened June 2, after talks with the Mexican government failed to yield results.

Packages from China are surging into US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conservatives anxious to counter America's leading economic adversary have set their sights on a top trade priority for labor unions and progressives: cracking down on the deluge of duty-free packages coming in from China.

The changing political dynamic could have major ramifications for e-commerce businesses and consumers importing products from China valued at less than \$800. It also could add to the growing tensions between the countries.

Under current U.S. law, most imports valued at less than \$800 enter duty-free into the United States as long as they are packaged and addressed to individual buyers. It's referred to as the de minimis rule. Efforts to lower the threshold amount or exclude certain countries altogether from duty-free treatment are set to become a major trade fight in this Congress.

"De minimis has become a proxy for all sorts of anxieties as it relates to China and oth-

er trade-related challenges," said John Drake, a vice president at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, who argues that the current U.S. law should be preserved.

The rule speeds the pace of commerce and lowers costs for consumers. It also allows U.S. Customs and Border Protection to focus its resources on the bigger-ticket items that generate more tariff revenue for the federal government.

The volume of products coming into the U.S. that benefit from the de minimis rule has soared in recent years. Congress raised the U.S. government's threshold for expedited, duty-free treatment from \$200 to \$800 in 2016.

The volume of such imports has since risen from about 220 million packages that year to 771 million in 2021 — with China accounting for about 60%, according to the government — and 685 million last year.

"I think everybody's got to kind of wrap their head around

what kind of mistake this was," Robert Lighthizer, the former U.S. trade representative during the Trump administration, told a House panel last month. "Nobody dreamt this would ever happen. Now we have packages coming in, 2 million packages a day, almost all from China. We have no idea what's in them. We don't really know what the value is."

Lighthizer urged Congress to get rid of the de minimis rule altogether, or take it to a much lower amount, say \$50 or \$100. He said foreign companies are taking advantage of the "loophole" and "putting people out of work in stores, they're putting people out of work in manufacturing."

Last year, House Democrats pushed to prohibit Chinese-made goods from benefiting from the special treatment for lower-cost goods. That move was part of a larger measure that boosted investments in semiconductor manufacturing and research.

Nation

Coast Guard will lead investigation of Titan implosion

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
and STEVE LeBLANC
Associated Press

The U.S. Coast Guard said Sunday it is leading an investigation into the loss of the Titan submersible that was carrying five people to the Titanic, to determine what caused it to implode.

Capt. Jason Neubauer, chief investigator, said the salvage operations from the sea floor are ongoing, and they have mapped the accident site. He did not give a timeline for the investigation. The convening of a Marine Board of Investigation is the highest level of investigation conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard, Neubauer said.

Investigators are working closely with other national and international investigative authorities, including the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, Transportation Safety Board of Canada, the French marine casualties investigation board and the United Kingdom Marine Accident Investigation Branch, Neubauer added. Evidence is being collected in the port of St. John's, Newfoundland, in coordination with Canadian authorities.

The Coast Guard board

can make recommendations to prosecutors to pursue civil or criminal sanctions as necessary.

"My primary goal is to prevent a similar occurrence by making the necessary recommendations to advance the safety of the maritime domain worldwide," Neubauer said.

The U.S. Navy said Sunday that it won't be using a large piece of salvage equipment that it had deployed to the effort to retrieve the Titan submersible.

The Flyaway Deep Ocean Salvage System had the capability of lifting an intact Titan back to the surface. The U.S. Coast Guard announced on Thursday that debris from the submersible had been found roughly 1,600 feet (488 meters) from the Titanic in North Atlantic waters.

The Titan submersible imploded on its way to tour the Titanic wreckage, killing all five on board. Debris was located about 12,500 feet (3,810 meters) underwater.

The Navy would only use the ocean salvage system if there were pieces large enough to require the use of the specialized equipment.

"Efforts are focused on helping map the debris field in preparation for recovery



Components of a Flyaway Deep Ocean Salvage System, or FADOSS, rest on the deck of a vessel in this undated photo provided by the U.S. Navy Office of Information.

efforts and to support investigative actions. Efforts to mobilize equipment such as the Flyaway Deep Ocean Salvage System have been discontinued," a Navy official told The Associated Press.

The Navy describes the Flyaway Deep Ocean Sal-

vage System as a "portable, ship lift system designed to provide reliable deep ocean lifting capacity of up to 60,000 pounds for the recovery of large, bulky, and heavy sunken objects such as

aircraft or small vessels."

The Titan weighed 20,000 pounds (9,071 kilograms).

The Navy is continuing to support the U.S. Coast Guard as operations continue.

On Saturday, the Transportation Safety Board of Canada said that it has begun an investigation into the loss of the submersible and has been speaking with those who traveled on Titan's mother ship, the Polar Prince.

Authorities from the U.S. and Canada began the process of probing the cause of the underwater implosion and are grappling with questions of who is responsible for determining how the tragedy unfolded.

"We are conducting a safety investigation in Canada given that this was a Canadian-flagged vessel that departed a Canadian port and was involved in this occurrence, albeit in international waters," said Kathy Fox, chair of the transportation board. "Other agencies may choose to conduct investigations."

The Polar Prince left Newfoundland on June 16, towing the ill-fated Titan. There were 41 people on board the ship — 17 crew members and 24 oth-

ers — including the five-man team of the Titan.

Fox said the Canadian Transportation Safety Board will share information it collects with other agencies, like the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Coast Guard, within the limits of Canadian law. Voice recordings and witness statements are protected under Canadian law, she said.

"We don't want to duplicate efforts. We want to collaborate," she said.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police also announced Saturday that they are studying the circumstances that led to the Titan deaths to decide whether a full investigation is warranted. That full probe will only take place if it appears criminal, federal or provincial law may have been broken, officials said.

The Coast Guard led the initial search and rescue mission, a massive international effort that likely cost millions of dollars. "The Coast Guard doesn't charge for search and rescue nor do we associate a cost with human life," said Rear Adm. John Mauger, of the Coast Guard First District.

Trump returns to Michigan with hopes of repeating 2016 battleground success

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Donald Trump appeared in Michigan on Sunday as he looks to reclaim territory that helped propel him to the White House but slipped from his grasp four years later.

Campaigning for a return to the presidency while facing a federal indictment for allegedly mishandling classified documents, Trump spoke in suburban Detroit, where he lost ground between 2016 and 2020 and would need to win it back if he becomes the 2024 Republican nominee. He would have to reverse the recent trend in Michigan that has seen Democrats make some of their biggest gains nationally since Trump's reelection loss.

Trump spoke at Oakland County GOP's Lincoln Day Dinner, where he was honored by the party as its "Man of the Decade." Trump frequently attacked President Joe Biden throughout his speech Sunday, saying Biden was a "catastrophe" for Michigan and auto production in the state. Trump

also criticized Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a co-chair of Biden's reelection campaign, for approving state funds for a foreign company.

It was his first campaign appearance in Michigan, one of three states, along with Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, that flipped in 2016 to put Trump in the White House and Biden, a Democrat, four years later.

Trump's popularity in Michigan has taken a hit since 2016.

"By Trump's calculations, he needs to win Michigan again to be the president. But he's been very disruptive here," said Dave Trott, a former GOP congressman. "Trump largely is the reason why the Michigan Republican Party is dead."

Last year, Trump's endorsed candidates in Michigan were among the loudest in repeating his unfounded claims that the 2020 election was rigged.

Trump's choice for attorney general, Matthew DePerno, spent the final months of his campaign under investigation into whether he should

be criminally charged for attempting to gain access to voting machines after the 2020 election. Secretary of State candidate Kristina Karamo, a former community college professor, was handpicked by Trump as the Republican nominee for secretary of state after claiming she saw election fraud as a poll challenger in Detroit.

In November, the statewide candidates he backed were overwhelmingly defeated, including Tudor Dixon, who lost by over 10 percentage points to Whitmer.

Michigan Republicans controlled all levels of state government from 2011 to 2019. Now, they are powerless for the first time in 40 years. The shift has been particularly evident in Oakland County, home to the largest number of Republican voters in the state.

"People who know Michigan electoral politics would say that it's pretty important that if Republicans are going to carry the state, they need to win Oakland County," Trott said.

At least 3 dead, 5 injured at shootings in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—At least three people have been found dead, and at least five others are thought to be injured, police in Missouri said while investigating two shootings with multiple victims in the same area of Kansas City early Sunday morning. Officers were called to the intersection of 57th Street and Prospect Avenue just after 4:30 a.m. when they found three shooting victims—two men and one woman—dead in a parking lot and in the street, the Kansas City Police Department said in a news release. Police were told that five other shooting victims with injuries that were not life-threatening arrived at various hospitals by private vehicles or ambulance, the department said.

Florida man, stepson die after hiking in extreme heat in Texas

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, Texas (AP)—A Florida man and his 14-year-old stepson died after hiking in extreme heat at Big Bend National Park in West Texas, according to officials. The

31-year-old man had been hiking the Marufo Vega Trail on Friday with his two stepsons, ages 14 and 21. Temperatures at the time were 119 degrees Fahrenheit (48 degrees Celsius), according to the National Park Service. The park, like other parts of Texas, are experiencing extreme heat with daily high temperatures ranging from 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius) to 119 degrees Fahrenheit. The 14-year-old became sick during the hike and lost consciousness. His stepfather hiked back to his vehicle while the boy's older brother tried to carry him back to the trailhead, according to the park service. Authorities were first alerted about the emergency at 6 p.m. CDT on Friday. A team of park rangers and U.S. Border Patrol agents reached the scene at 7:30 p.m. and found the 14-year-old had died. Authorities began looking for the father and at 8 p.m. they found that his vehicle had crashed over an embankment at Boquillas Overlook. The man was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash, the park service said. The names of the two victims were not immediately released by authorities, and the causes of their

deaths was not immediately known. "The Marufo Vega Trail winds through extremely rugged desert and rocky cliffs within the hottest part of Big Bend National Park. No shade or water makes this strenuous trail dangerous to attempt in the heat of summer," the park service said in a news release.

2 people die, 12 hurt in shooting at a street party

SAGINAW, Mich. (AP)—A 51-year-old woman and a 19-year-old man were slain and a dozen others wounded during a shooting at a large street party in Michigan that was promoted on social media. The shooting occurred around midnight Saturday in Saginaw, about 102 miles (164 kilometers) northwest of Detroit, state police said. Police initially said about 200 people were in the area of the party and that officers had been dispersing the crowd prior to the shooting, MLive.com reported. Three people also were struck by cars and injured as people quickly fled from the gunshots, WNEM-TV reported. Investigators determined five different guns had been fired in the shooting.

Asia

Russia: China backs efforts to stabilize country following mercenary rebellion

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Russia said on Sunday that China threw its support behind President Vladimir Putin's efforts to stabilize the country after an aborted rebellion against the Kremlin by an army of mercenaries.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said China declared support for the leadership in Moscow during a previously unannounced trip to Beijing by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko.

"The Chinese side expressed support for the efforts of the leadership of the Russian Federation to stabilize the situation in the country in connection with the events of June 24, and reaffirmed its interest in strengthening the unity and further prosperity of Russia," the Russian statement said.

Rudenko met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang to discuss "international and regional issues of common concern," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on its website.

Rudenko's visit came just a day after Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of private mercenary army Wagner Group, ordered his troops to march on Moscow in the greatest challenge to Putin's more than two decades in power. Prigozhin later on Saturday reached a deal with the Kremlin to go into exile.

It was unclear whether Rudenko's visit to China was in response to the rebellion.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement late Sunday that the uprising was "Russia's internal affair."

"As a friendly neighbor and comprehensive strategic partner in the new era, China supports Russia in maintaining national stability and achieving development and prosperity," it said, without explicitly referencing Russia's leadership.

China and Russia, while not formal allies, have maintained close ties throughout Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which China has refused to condemn.

The United States and other Western powers have urged Beijing not to supply Russia with arms that could be used in the Ukraine conflict. China in May sent an envoy to Ukraine and Russia in an attempt to mediate talks to end the war.

While in Beijing, Rudenko also held talks with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu. The two sides pledged to "strengthen solidarity and cooperation" and promote the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security-focused regional group that both Russia and China belong to, according to a readout of the talks by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

"Under the complex and severe international situation, it is necessary to ... communicate in a timely manner, ensure the stable and long-term relationship between the two countries and safeguard the common interests of both sides," Ma said.

he added. Despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than during their previous stint in power in the 1990s, the Taliban have imposed harsh measures since seizing Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO forces were pulling out. They have barred women from public spaces, like parks and gyms, and cracked down on media freedoms.

Islamic State group claims killing Sikh man in Pakistan's northwest

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen shot and killed a member of Pakistan's minority Sikh community in an overnight attack in the northwestern city of Peshawar, police said Sunday. Gauher Khan, a local officer, said the attack on Manmohan Singh, 35, appeared to be a targeted killing. A police investigation continues, Khan said, into the motive. Khan said the assailants opened fire at Singh while he was returning home from a suburban area. The assailants fled the scene. The Islamic State group in a statement claimed responsibility for the killing, saying Singh had been a follower of what it called a "polytheistic" Sikh sect in Peshawar. It also claimed wounding a Sikh in the northwestern city the previous day. It's the third killing of a Sikh community member this year in Pakistan. Last month, assailants gunned down Sardar Singh in a drive-by shooting in the eastern city of Lahore. In April, gunmen shot and killed Dayal Singh in Peshawar. In the same city in May 2022, gunmen killed two members of Sikh community. Most Sikhs migrated to neighboring India in 1947, the year British rule of the subcontinent ended and Pakistan was created as a homeland for Muslims in the region. Thousands of Sikhs stayed in Pakistan, where they generally live peacefully. But isolated attacks on minority Sikhs, Christians and members of the Ahmadi sect have continued.

World

Wagner's future, direction in Ukraine war remain uncertain

The rebellious mercenary soldiers who briefly took over a Russian military headquarters on an ominous march toward Moscow were gone Sunday, but the short-lived revolt has weakened President Vladimir Putin just as his forces are facing a fierce counteroffensive in Ukraine.

Under terms of the agreement that ended the crisis, Yevgeny Prigozhin, who led his Wagner troops in the failed uprising, will go into exile in Belarus but will not face prosecution.

But it was unclear what would ultimately happen to him and his forces. Few details of the deal were released either by the Kremlin or Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who brokered it. Neither Prigozhin nor Putin has been heard from, and top Russian military leaders have also remained silent.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken described the weekend's events as "extraordinary," recalling that 16 months ago Putin appeared poised to seize the capital of Ukraine and now he has had to defend Moscow from forces led by his onetime protege.

"I think we've seen more cracks emerge in the Rus-



AP
Yevgeny Prigozhin, the owner of the Wagner Group military company, right, sits inside a military vehicle posing for a selfie photo with a local civilian on a street in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, Saturday, June 24, 2023, prior to leaving an area of the headquarters of the Southern Military District.

sian façade," Blinken said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"It is too soon to tell exactly where they go and when they get there, but certainly we have all sorts of new questions that Putin is going to have to address in the weeks and months ahead."

It was not yet clear what the fissures opened by the 24-hour rebellion would mean for the war in Ukraine. But it resulted in some of the best forces fighting for Russia being pulled from the battlefield: the Wagner troops, who had shown their effectiveness in scoring the Kremlin's only land victory in months, in Bakhmut, and Chechen sol-

diers sent to stop them on the approach to Moscow.

The Wagner forces' largely unopposed, rapid advance also exposed vulnerabilities in Russia's security and military forces. The mercenary soldiers were reported to have downed several helicopters and a military communications plane. The Defense Ministry has not commented.

"I honestly think that Wagner probably did more damage to Russian aerospace forces in the past day than the Ukrainian offensive has done in the past three weeks," Michael Kofman, director of Russia studies at the CNA research group, said in a podcast.

Greece's conservative New Democracy party wins landslide election

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's conservative New Democracy party leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis vowed to speed up reforms following his landslide victory Sunday in the country's second election in five weeks that granted him a comfortable parliamentary majority to form a government for a second four-year term.

Jubilant supporters gathered outside party headquarters in Athens, cheering, clapping, setting off fireworks and waving blue and white party flags. Near complete results show his party has won just over 40.5% of the vote, crushing his main rival, the left-wing Syriza party, which was struggling to reach 18%, 2 percentage points lower than the last elections in May.

"With today's electoral re-

sult, Greece opens a new, historic chapter in its course," Mitsotakis said in a televised statement. Voters, he said, "gave us a strong mandate to move faster on the course of the big changes our country needs. In a loud and mature way they have permanently closed a traumatic cycle of lies and toxicity that held the country back and divided society."

His second term as prime minister "can transform Greece at a dynamic pace of development which will increase salaries and reduce inequality, with better and free public health care, with a more effective and digital state and a strong country," he added.

Sunday's vote came just over a week after a migrant ship capsized and sank off

the western coast of Greece, leaving hundreds of people dead and missing and calling into question the actions of Greek authorities and the country's strict migration policy. But the disaster, one of the worst in the Mediterranean in recent years, did not affect the election, with domestic economic issues at the forefront of voters' minds.

Mitsotakis' party was projected to win 158 of Parliament's 300 seats, thanks to a change in the electoral law that grants the winning party bonus seats. The previous election in May, conducted under a proportional representation system, left him five seats short of a majority despite winning nearly 41% of the vote, and he had decided to seek a stronger mandate in a second election rather than to seek to form a coalition government with a smaller party.

Voter turnout, however, was low on Sunday, at just under 53% of eligible voters, compared to just over 61% in the May vote.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban leader claims women provided 'comfortable, prosperous life'

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The supreme leader of the Taliban released a message Sunday claiming that his government has taken the necessary steps for the betterment of women's lives in Afghanistan, where women are banned from public life and work and girls' education is severely curtailed. The statement from Hibatullah Akhundzada was made public ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday, which will be celebrated later this week in Afghanistan and other Islamic countries. Akhundzada, an Islamic scholar, rarely appears in public or leaves the Taliban heartland in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province. He surrounds himself with other religious scholars and allies who oppose education and work for women. In his Eid message Akhundzada said that under the rule of the Islamic Emirate, concrete measures have been taken to save women from many traditional oppressions, including forced marriages, "and their Shariah rights have been protected." Moreover, "necessary steps have been taken for the betterment of women as half of society in order to provide them with a comfortable and prosperous life according to the Islamic Shariah," the message continued. Lately, Akhundzada appears to have taken a stronger hand in directing domestic policy, banning girls' education after the sixth grade and barring Afghan women from public life and work, especially for nongovernmental organizations and the United Nations. The message was distributed in five languages: Arabic, Dari, English, Pashto and Urdu. Akhundzada said the negative aspects of the previous 20-year occupation related to women's wearing of the hijab and "misguidance" will end soon. "The status of women as a free and dignified human being has been restored and all institutions have been obliged to help women in securing marriage, inheritance and other rights,"

Overdrive

By HENRY PAYNE
The Detroit News

Sleek, simple and sophisticated, the Hyundai Ioniq 6 takes direct aim at the Tesla Model 3.

And that's rare for an industry that has answered Tesla's stunning one-two punch of the Model 3 sedan and Model Y SUV with ... a single SUV jab. Think about it. Ford Mustang Mach-E, Volkswagen ID.4, Cadillac Lyriq, Chevy Blazer EV, Toyota bZ4X, Subaru Solterra, Nissan Ariya, Mazda MX-30, Audi Q4 e-tron, Genesis GV60, Fisker Ocean, Lexus RX, Kia EV6—automakers have entered the EV segment by taking on the Model Y while largely ignoring the compact \$41,880 sedan that changed the EV game.

Yeah, yeah, I know, the sedan is kaput. Finished. Soooo 15 minutes ago. Which is why manufacturers rushed to fill the most popular segment in autodom—the compact SUV—with their first EVs. But being a low-slung sedan didn't deter the Model 3 from selling like hotcakes.

So, determined to make its mark in the electric world, Hyundai has followed the master: it has (like everyone else) created an Ioniq 5 SUV to take on the Model Y, and an Ioniq 6 to chase the Model 3.

I flogged the sexy 6's top-trim, \$58K all-wheel-drive Limited model over the twisty country roads of Washtenaw County. It follows the Model 3 formula but with significant differences.

Bury the throttle out of a corner and 6 surges forward, its front and rear electric motors offering instant thrust.

Hyundai brings Ioniq 6—appeal to EV space



DREW PHILLIPS
The Hyundai Ioniq 6.

But it's not as eager as the—ZOT!—all-wheel-drive Model 3 (a fact borne out by an all-wheel-drive Model 3's 0-60 mph time, which is a full second quicker than my AWD Ioniq 6 tester) due to carrying another 600 pounds over the 4,086-pound Tesla.

That extra weight comes with benefits. Ioniq 6 feels more substantial than the Tesla's tinnier construction quality. The Hyundai is heavy, like it's been carved from oak, and doors close with a satisfying THUNK. Ioniq 6's wheelbase is also three inches longer than Model 3, which translates into a significant four more inches of rear legroom—and six more cubic feet of interior space.

When I wasn't enjoying the

NUTS & BOLTS

■ **Vehicle type:** Battery-powered, rear- and all-wheel-drive five-passenger sedan

■ **Price:** \$41,715, including \$1,115 destination fee (\$57,425 long-range, AWD Limited as tested)

■ **Powerplant:** 53-77.4 kWh lithium-ion battery with single or dual electric-motors; 800-volt charging, 10-80% fast charge in 18 minutes (mfr.)

■ **Power:** 149 horsepower, 258 pound-feet torque (standard range, RWD); 225 horsepower, 258 pound-feet torque (long range, RWD); 320 horsepower, 446 pound-feet torque (long range, AWD)

■ **Transmission:** Single-speed direct drive

■ **Performance:** 0-60 mph, 5.1 seconds (mfr.); top speed, 116 mph

■ **Weight:** 3,935-4,616 pounds

■ **Fuel economy:** EPA MPGe 103 (as tested); range, 240-361 miles (RWD), 305-316 miles (AWD)

■ **Report card**

■ **Highs:** Sleek styling; roomy cabin

■ **Lows:** Limited cargo room compared to Model 3; more expensive/less range than Sonata sedan

■ **Overall:** 3 stars

Hyundai's smooth ride behind the wheel I was sprawling comfortably in the back seat. All that interior space, however, steals from cargo room, which is just 11 cubic feet compared to the Tesla's 19—a subtraction exacerbated by Hyundai declining to offer a frunk (front trunk) as Tesla does.

Consistent with Tesla, Ioniq 6's cockpit is dominated by a big horizontal screen—though the Hyundai's screen sprawls across the dash, splitting in two to offer an instrument display behind the steering wheel and infotainment display over the console. Tesla, of course, stuffs all its controls into a single 15-inch tablet. Both Hyundai and Tesla further unclutter the cabin by placing gear shift-

ers on the steering column.

Like its Silicon Valley foe, Hyundai delights in wowing with new digital toys.

Ioniq 6 boasts multi-step regenerative braking (to my preferred one-pedal driving), multiple drive modes including SPORT, artificial propulsion sounds, self-parking—even the ability to remote park the Hyundai from outside the car. These features are also available on Hyundai's similar luxury Genesis GV60 model, which begs the question: why would you pay 10 grand more for the Genesis than the Hyundai? Or pay more for a BMW i4 EV sedan, which has specs very similar to the Ioniq 6? Indeed, if you close your eyes (please don't if driving), these EVs all are virtually identical in feel.

The answer, of course, is brand. Who's going to pay nearly 60 large for a Ioniq 6 when you can have a \$60K Genesis GV60 or BMW i4? Or a \$60K Tesla? The Ioniq 6 is priced right on top of Tesla's icon with a \$42,715 entry-level, rear-wheel-drive model all the way up to a \$56K AWD model (Tesla's Performance model is \$55,630).

Hyundai's answer is style, something that has benefited Tesla all these years. The Ioniq has undeniable 6-appeal.

Its design language is simple like the Model 3, but with more flair. I particularly like the signature black mustache that underlines the headlights—and hides irregularities like the sonar sensors (for self-parking, etc.). It's a feature that Tesla could learn from. My friend Anne loves her Model Y—but for its spooky black, Voldemort face.

What's wrong with the AM radio?

Q: I have a 2008 Volvo S80 and the AM radio died. The FM and disc changer work just fine. Is this fixable and what part should I order or is it just a loose connection somewhere? I really miss my AM radio.

J.C., Colorado Springs, Colorado

A: Most likely there is a bad connection, probably a ground connection, at the antenna. By the way, cars are now coming with no AM radio at all.

■■■

Q: Have you heard of a “digital security fee” itemized on routine Toyota maintenance? Our local Toyota service dealership is doing this now under new management. Never saw this before.

K.D., Iowa City, Iowa

A: Maybe this is some new program that protects the technicians' fingers from being stolen.

■■■

Q: I purchased a new Hyundai Sonata Hybrid Limited a year ago. It came with 3 years of complementary oil changes. The oil cap on the engine states 0W-16 weight oil. After my first oil change was done, I noticed that the Hyundai dealer had put semi-synthetic 5W-30 oil in. The dealer said that the 5W-30 oil was an acceptable substitute, as they had no 0W-16 oil in stock. They also said that if I wanted full synthetic oil, there would be a \$30 charge. I questioned what the dealer

had done. I told them that the reason for the 0W-16 oil was likely better fuel mileage, as it is a lighter oil. In the end, they put in a full synthetic 0W-20 oil without charging me. I am not returning to this dealer. Could you enlighten me about 0W-16 oil, and if only it should be used in my vehicle?

J.K., Las Vegas

A: All 0W-xx oils can only be made synthetically so semi-synthetic oils are not “pure synthetics.” The 0W-20 is OK to use, but you should really stick with the owner's manual recommendations if possible. Full synthetics are more expensive than semi-synthetics so the upcharge is understandable. Kudos to the dealer for not charging you for the oil or the labor to change it. You might consider returning.

■■■

Q: I have a 2020 Hyundai Palisade that allows for periodic software upgrades for the system, navigation, etc. This software install usually takes almost 1.5 hours to complete with the car running and cannot be interrupted until completed. Is it possible to hook up a battery charger and do the install so the battery does not discharge without causing damage?

L.M., Wheaton, Illinois

A: Updates via telemetry save time for both you and the dealer. The only inconvenience is lacking use of the vehicle for the required time. It has been my experience that the engine need not be running, only that the ignition is in the run position. This puts

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



very little drain on the battery. You may connect a battery charger if the engine isn't running.

■■■

Q: I have a 2015 Honda Odyssey with 110,000 miles, and I have it serviced following the owner's manual at the local Honda dealer. They tell me that I need to replace the timing belt and that the belt can fail and if it does it will destroy the engine. The cost is approximately \$1,500 and I am skeptical because my previous 2002 Honda Odyssey went for 225,000 miles. Was I just lucky?

M.C., Chicago

A: To quote Dirty Harry: “You’ve got to ask yourself one question: Do I feel lucky? Well, do ya, punk?” Yeah, I think you were lucky. According to Kelly Blue Book, the typical price for the vehicle is \$3,231. Without an engine, I couldn't even guess its value.

Life & Style

BET Awards honor Busta Rhymes, hip-hop's 50 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 2023 BET Awards celebrated 50 years of hip-hop with tributes to the genre's earliest voices, late legends, and new talent during a show packed with spectacular performances that consistently felt like a party.

Sunday's biggest surprise came when Quavo and Offset, the surviving members of Migos, performed "Bad and Boujee" in front of an image of Takeoff, who died in a shooting last December.

"BET, do it for Take," the duo shouted near the beginning of their set, as their backdrop switched from the image of a space shuttle to one of Takeoff pointing in the air.

Throughout the show, whether it was Tupac, Notorious B.I.G., Biz Markie or Pop Smoke, performers and emcee Kid Capri paid homage to late hip-hop stars, often by quickly highlighting a taste of their best-known hits. In a show where few awards were given,



Capri and BET kept the emphasis on the music.

Busta Rhymes took home

the night's biggest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award, handed to him by Swizz Beatz.

The 12-time Grammy Award nominated rapper, producer, and pioneering hip-hop figure is widely regarded as one of the great MCs, with seven Top 10 Billboard Hot 100 hits to his name.

Diddy, Janet Jackson, Chuck D, Missy Elliot, Pharrell Williams, and Mariah Carey recorded a video tribute to Rhymes.

"Alright, Imma wear it on my sleeve. I do wanna cry," Rhymes started his speech, as his eyes started to water. He talked about his six children, being kicked out from his hip-hop group Leaders of the New School, and learning how to rebuild by going into studios, sharing a cigar with whoever was in the studio,

and "quickly whipping up a 16 bar verse. ... By default, I pioneered the feature," he said. "A lot of greatness from out people in our culture is by default. Because it's just a magic we have."

An energetic tribute to Rhymes followed—the MC teamed up with Spliff Star for "Ante Up Remix," "Scenario," "Look At Me Now," "I Know What You Want", before a long list of A-listers jumped in: Scar Lip with "This Is New York", Coi Leray with "Players," BIA with "Beach Ball," among them. Halfway through the performance, Rhymes shifted gears to celebrate dancehall alongside Dexta Daps "Shabba Madda Pot,"

AP
Patti LaBelle performs "The Best" during an In Memoriam tribute to the late singer Tina Turner, pictured onstage at the BET Awards on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Spice, "So Mi Like It," Skil-libeng, "Whap Whap", and CuttyRanks' "A Who Seh Me Dun (Wait Deh Man)."

Throughout the show, old school hip-hop heroes and modern stars mixed it up onstage, performing tracks celebrating rap's most influential cities and innovation. For Miami, Trick Daddy and Trina rocked through "Nann" and Uncle Luke took on "I Wanna Rock (Doo Doo Brown)." For Atlanta, Jeezy ripped through "They Know", T.I. hit "24's," and Master P did "No Limit Soldiers" into "Make 'Em Say Ugh." And for hip-hop's reggae influence, Jamaica's Doug E. Fresh and Lil 'Vicious did an acapella version of "Freaks," Mad Lion performed "Take It Easy," and PATRA nailed "Romantic Call."

Capri spun some of Tupac's "Hail Marry" to tease a crash course on West Coast rap: Warren G's "Regulate," Yo-Yo's "You Can't Play With My Yo-Yo," Tyga's "Rack City", and E-40's "Tell Me When To Go."

An ode to trap started with Capri spinning the late Pop Smoke's "Dior", before Chief Keef nailed "Faneto" and Ying Yang Twins did "Wait (The Whisper Song.)"

Human remains found in area where actor disappeared

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—Hikers found human remains Saturday in a Southern California mountain area where actor Julian Sands disappeared five months ago, authorities said.

The body discovered around 10 a.m. in wilderness near Mount Baldy was transported to the coroner's office for identification next week, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

Additional details were not

immediately available.

Sands, an avid hiker and mountaineer, was reported missing January 13 after setting out on the peak that rises more than 10,000 feet (3,048 meters) east of Los Angeles. The region was pounded by severe storms during winter.

On Friday, his family released its first statement since Sands' disappearance.

"We continue to hold Julian in our hearts with bright memories of him as a wonder-

ful father, husband, explorer, lover of the natural world and the arts, and as an original and collaborative performer," the statement said.

Sands, a 65-year-old British-born actor best known for his role in the 1985 film "A Room With a View," is married to journalist Evgenia Citkowitz and has three adult children.

A June 17 search for Sands, the eighth organized search since his disappearance, was unsuccessful, authorities said.

MIL's restaurant hysterics make dining out miserable

DEAR ABBY: I would like your help on how to deal with a problem I am having with my mother-in-law. The in-laws call at least once a week wanting us to go out to dinner with them. It's embarrassing because my mother-in-law is always horrible to the waiter. She complains about everything and usually causes some sort of a scene.

My husband and I are at a loss about how to tell her this is why we no longer want to go out with them. We have tried making excuses and inviting them to our house instead, but she refuses to take no for an answer and demands we join them at a restaurant. If we don't, she gets mad and has hurt feelings. Help!

EATING ME UP IN ALABAMA

DEAR EATING ME UP: Your mother-in-law's behavior is indeed an embarrassment, and your feelings are justified. Your husband should talk frankly with both his parents about why neither of you are comfortable eating out with them. If it isn't addressed, it won't be fixed.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband's stepbrother died unexpectedly, and the ex wants to take our son to the funeral. The ex and his stepbrother were not close. The ex has not been active in our son's life. He moved to another state two years ago, and it took repeated explanations for my son to understand who the person was who died.

My son told me he doesn't know his dad's family, so it

doesn't bother him they aren't a part of his life. He hasn't asked to attend the funeral or asked anything else about his uncle. I don't think he should go.

Should I let my ex take him so our son can see how many people have chosen not to be a part of his life, or should I refuse?

NOT IN HIS LIFE

DEAR NOT IN HIS LIFE: If you can resist mentioning your opinion to your son, he may not view meeting his paternal relatives the same way you do. Of one thing I am sure: He should not feel forced to go if he doesn't want to. I think the answer to your question depends on how old your son is and whether your ex is responsible enough to be trusted with the boy. Only you can answer that.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother is 74 and has been widowed for 10 years. During this time, my sister and I have tried to convince her to downsize from her very large, hard-to-maintain house to something more manageable. She is always overwhelmed. Friends and other family members offer to help her with it, and she acts like it's more than she can manage.

We are now watching her becoming overwhelmed by everything in life, not just the house. We are also wondering if some dementia is starting to set in. My sister and I want her to see a counselor and talk with her doctor, but she's too overwhelmed to do this either. Can we make an appointment with a counselor or minister for her?

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



TRYING TO HELP

DEAR TRYING TO HELP: Make an appointment for her with her doctor, provide the transportation and stay with her if possible. The doctor should be informed about what's going on so your mother can be evaluated. Changes like the ones you describe could be symptoms of an underlying illness as well as dementia, and the sooner you can find out, the better for your mother.

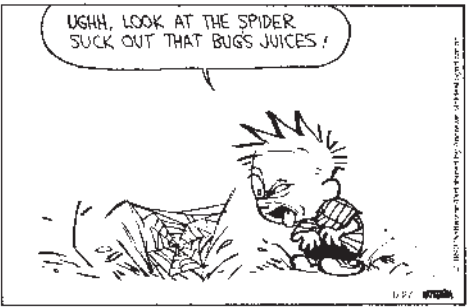
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

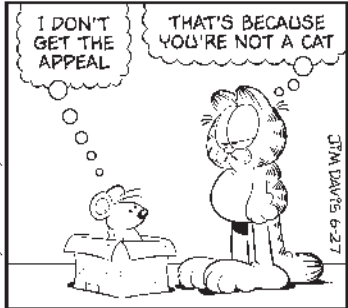
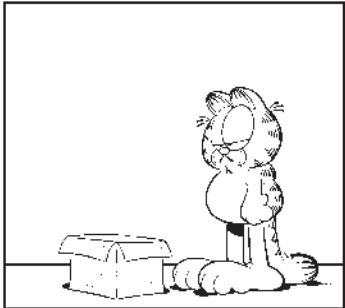
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



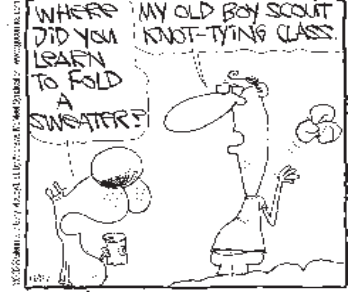
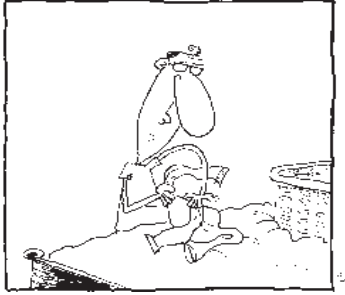
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Org. for seniors
5 Grier of "The L Word"
8 Partner
12 Grand
13 Terre Haute sch.
14 Repeat
15 Places for derbies
17 Mend a sock
18 Evening hrs.
19 Zodiac bull
21 Quotidian
24 Taxpayer IDs
25 Give up
26 Neckwear pins
30 — -Magnon
31 Speeding penalties
32 Napkin's perch
33 Russian horsemen
35 Italian money
36 Places of refuge
37 Pick up the tab
38 Camper's bag

DOWN

41 "— Way" (Sinatra biography)
42 Duel tool
43 Cold
48 Damon or Dillon
49 PBS funder
50 Despot
51 Remain
52 Delty
53 Tubular pasta
1 Sports fig.
2 "Caught ya!"
3 Decay
4 Red + blue
5 Snapshots
6 Request
7 What summer blockbusters can be described as
8 Snake-haired character in 2010's "Clash of the Titans"
9 Rent —
10 Drive —
11 window
12 Billions of years
16 Comic Schumer of 2015's "Trainwreck"
20 Picnic intruders
21 800, in old Rome
22 Sleek, in car lingo
23 Altar
24 Restroom
26 Making one laugh, say
27 Crossword hint
28 Super-girl's first name
29 Espy
31 Cab cost
34 Two-pointer in football
35 Faux
37 Gratitude
38 GOP rivals
39 — the crack of dawn
40 Greek cheese
41 Top dog
44 Corp. boss
45 CBS forensic drama
46 Actress Denning of "Thor"
47 Lanka lead-in

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-27

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ed Westwick, 36; Drake Bell, 37; Tobey Maguire, 48; J.J. Abrams, 57.

Happy Birthday: Being observant will enrich your life by helping you make better decisions. Don't be a follower; do what you enjoy most. Take pride in what you do, and don't fear being different. Learning as you go will help you build a strong base for your future. Minimize your goals to fit your budget, and ensure you put your effort where it brings the highest return. Your numbers are 5, 18, 22, 27, 30, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make decisions based on facts, not impulse. Gather information, listen, learn and prepare diligently to ensure your success. Finishing what you start is vital if you intend to leave a lasting impression that leads to connections that offer more significant opportunities. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keeping your eye on your goal is good if you don't neglect the small but essential details. A change of plans will disrupt your schedule unless you have a backup plan with experts who can help you do your best. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't share too much information. Focus on how you can draw on your expertise to help you stretch your money and use your connections and skills to increase your income, value and reputation. Romance and home improvements are favored. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Express your thoughts and feelings, and finish what you start. Refuse to let outside influences stand between you and what you are trying to accomplish. Trust in yourself, and

make the most of an opportunity or kind gesture. Change what's necessary. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick close to home and protect what you have worked hard to build. Don't make unnecessary changes or take on more than you can handle. Make balance, minimalism and integrity priorities before negotiating your next move. Focus on personal gain. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you work quietly behind closed doors, you'll accomplish your objective without interference. The information you receive will leave you wondering how to proceed. Verify information before making a decision that can influence the outcome of your plan. Don't take a risk. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Contact people you know and trust to come through for you. Surround yourself with quality people who know how to keep a secret and finish things on time. Question anything that sounds unreal. Clear your head and rethink your next move. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make changes for the right reason. Don't follow anyone. Put together a strict budget and use your funds to differentiate yourself from others. Stand tall, look your best and review the possibilities. Call on an actual expert, not someone pretending to be one. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to what goes out of and what comes into your bank account. Someone will offer wisdom, but before you trust and believe in someone else, consider what works best for you. A romantic gesture doesn't have to be expensive. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Speak from the heart. Express what you want and what you will give in return. Pay attention to the changes around you, and protect your home and possessions from outside influences. Aim to stabilize your life using alternative means and methods. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't make empty promises. Establish your concerns and how you plan to bring about positive change. A chance to bring in more cash will depend on what you contribute physically. Change begins with you and what you have to offer. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you stick to home and family, you'll accomplish something essential to your survival. Establish what you earn and what you can spend. Have a plan, and refuse to let anyone tempt you to try something risky. A change at work will leave you livid. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, creative and proactive. You are flexible and helpful.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | 5 | 3 | | | 6 | 1 | 9 | | |
| 6 | | | | | 9 | 1 | | | | |
| 4 | | 1 | | | | | | 6 | | |
| 2 | | | | 6 | 7 | | | 1 | | |
| | 7 | | | 8 | 1 | | | 4 | | |
| | | | 9 | | 4 | | 6 | | 3 | |
| | | | | | 3 | 8 | | | 9 | |
| 3 | | | | 9 | | | | 8 | 1 | |
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | | |

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 |

Difficulty: ★★ 6/27
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

METALLICA IS BACK Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | D | D | E | N | E | K | C | A | L | B | M | O | O | R |
| D | E | L | P | V | R | E | G | N | A | R | T | S | E | C |
| L | T | N | A | U | I | E | M | A | L | F | E | T | A | C |
| E | S | D | V | R | P | L | T | S | B | L | S | R | T | I |
| I | W | R | O | O | S | P | T | L | U | A | I | U | L | S |
| F | E | A | I | C | G | E | X | M | T | R | J | A | U | |
| T | N | T | D | K | S | C | M | T | S | R | C | I | S | M |
| E | N | I | A | T | S | U | M | A | S | E | L | L | A | I |
| H | B | U | R | O | L | R | A | N | J | B | I | L | N | R |
| N | A | G | N | R | U | T | H | A | O | O | F | O | D | R |
| O | S | G | I | O | H | L | S | J | S | R | F | A | M | O |
| T | S | C | F | R | A | H | E | A | V | Y | I | D | A | R |
| R | H | G | A | T | I | M | E | S | E | A | S | O | N | S |
| U | I | S | E | F | F | I | R | O | A | M | B | A | N | D |
| B | H | M | I | C | T | H | I | N | G | S | K | R | I | K |

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Albums, Atlas, Band, Bass, Big Four, Blackened, Burton, Cliff, Dave, Flame, Guitar, Hammett, Heavy, Hetfield, James, Jason, Kirk, Lars, Live, Load, Lux, Master, Metal, Mirrors, Music, Mustaine, Newsted, Orion, Puppets, Radio, Riff, Rise, Roam, Robert, Ron McGovney, Rock, Room, Sandman, Seasons, Sets, Songs, Stranger, Things, Thrash, Times, Trujillo, Ulrich Yesterday's Answer: Seasoning

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STUMPED?

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Astros win finale with Dodgers in 11 innings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jer-

emy Pena and Jose Abreu each hit two-run homers, Alex Bregman had a go-ahead RBI single in the 11th inning and the visiting Houston Astros salvaged the finale of a three-game series with a 6-5 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday night.

After the Astros blew a 4-1 lead in the eighth inning, Corey Julks had an RBI single in the 10th inning and Bregman was the difference in the 11th as Houston won for just the third time in its last 10 games.

Astros rookie right-hander Hunter Brown gave up one run on three hits over six innings, Ryan Pressley (2-2) earned the win and Seth Martinez collected his first career save.

Freddie Freeman had a pair of doubles for the Dodgers to reach 2,000 hits for his career as Los Angeles' four-game winning streak came to an end.

Mookie Betts and Will Smith hit home runs for Los Angeles. Dodgers starter Tony Gonsolin gave up four runs on five hits over five innings. An All-Star last season, Gonsolin has given up 11 runs over his past two outings. Right-hander Yency Almonte (3-1) absorbed the loss.

CARDINALS 7, CUBS 5

LONDON (AP)—Willson Contreras collected four hits and St. Louis overcame an early four-run deficit to beat Chicago in London. Paul Goldschmidt delivered a go-ahead RBI single in the fourth and five Cardinals relievers limited the Cubs to just one run over 6 2/3 innings.

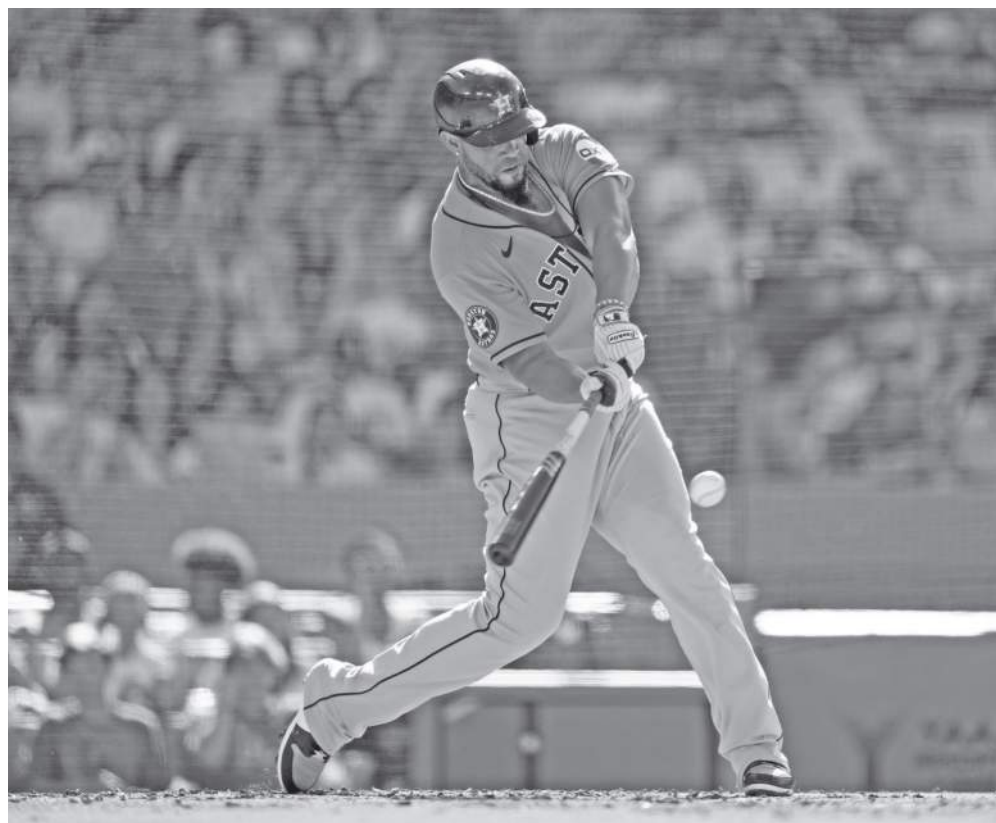
St. Louis dropped a 9-1 decision on Saturday and trailed 4-0 after an inning Sunday before igniting its bats against Chicago ace Marcus Stroman (9-5). The Cardinals broke a 4-4 tie on Goldschmidt's run-scoring single to right off Stroman, then seized a 6-4 lead on Lars Nootbaar's sacrifice fly.

Chicago, which saw its four-game winning streak come to a halt, took advantage of some shoddy Cardinals' defense to score four runs in the first against starter Matthew Liberatore. Jake Woodford (2-2) got the win, and Jordan Hicks gave up a run in the ninth but picked up his fourth save.

TWINS 6, TIGERS 3, 10 INNINGS

DETROIT (AP)—Royce Lewis drove home the go-ahead run during a three-run 10th inning as visiting Minnesota defeated Detroit.

Lewis had three hits and scored two runs. Donovan So-



Houston Astros' Jose Abreu (79) hits a home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles, Sunday, June 25, 2023. AP

lano hit a two-run homer for the Twins, who have won four of their last five games. Starter Bailey Ober gave up three runs and five hits and struck out eight in six innings. Griffin Jax (4-6) tossed an inning of scoreless relief and Joao Duran got his 11th save.

Zach McKinstry drove in two runs for Detroit. Starter Michael Lorenzen gave up two runs and seven hits in five innings. Lewis led off the 10th inning against Brendan White (1-1) with an infield single as ghost runner Carlos Correa came around to score.

PHILLIES 7, METS 6

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kyle Schwarber and Trea Turner were hit by pitches with the bases loaded to force in the tying and go-ahead runs in the eighth inning for host Philadelphia, which built a bizarre four-run rally to edge New York in the finale of a three-game series.

The Mets scored in every inning between the third and seventh to carry a 6-3 lead into the eighth, when the Phillies sent 10 batters to the plate. The rally made a winner of Jeff Hoffman (1-1), who struck out two in a perfect eighth.

Pete Alonso had three RBIs via a two-run single in the third and a homer in the seventh, while Francisco Lindor also went deep for the Mets.

ORIOLES 3, MARINERS 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Anthony Santander blasted his fifth homer in the past six games to help power host Baltimore past Seattle in the rub-

ber game of their three-game set. Santander went 1-for-4 with a two-run homer for the Orioles.

Kyle Bradish (4-3) allowed two runs on just two hits with seven strikeouts and two walks in seven innings for Baltimore. Felix Bautista struck out three in the ninth inning for his 21st save.

Cal Raleigh went 1-for-3 with a two-run homer for the Mariners, who have dropped four of their past six games.

YANKEES 5, RANGERS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Bader hit a go-ahead two-run double in the eighth inning as New York withstood Gerrit Cole's shortest start of the season and rallied to beat visiting Texas.

Rookie Anthony Volpe sparked the comeback with a double off John King (1-1), and Jose Trevino followed with an infield single. Bader gave the Yankees the lead by ripping a 1-1 pitch from Yerry Rodriguez past left fielder Ezequiel Duran to the warning track as Volpe and pinch runner Oswaldo Cabrera scored from first.

Michael King allowed one hit in the ninth for his fifth save in seven chances. He struck out Adolis Garcia to end it after allowing a go-ahead homer to the slugger in the 10th on Friday. Corey Seager hit an RBI single two batters in and Texas scored twice in the second. Jonah Heim homered and Leody Taveras hit an RBI double.

BLUE JAYS 12, ATHLETICS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Cavan Biggio hit a three-run homer,

Yusei Kikuchi pitched seven strong innings and Toronto defeated visiting Oakland.

George Springer hit a home run to lead off the first inning for Toronto. It was his 55th career leadoff homer and moved him into second place on the all-time list behind Rickey Henderson (81). Toronto took the rubber match of the three-game series after dropping the opener on Friday.

Kikuchi (7-2) allowed one run, two hits and two walks while striking out eight in seven innings. Oakland right-hander Luis Medina (1-7) allowed four runs (three earned), four hits and seven walks in five innings. Tony Kemp hit a home run for Oakland, which was out of 11-3 and has lost 10 of 11 games.

Braves 7, Reds 6

Matt Olson capped an explosive series with a tiebreaking three-run homer to lead visiting Atlanta to a win over Cincinnati.

Olson finished the three-game set with four home runs, giving him 25 on the season. Raisel Iglesias earned his second save in as many days when Kevin Newman grounded into a 5-4-3 double play to end the game with the potential tying run at third base.

The Reds rookie class did it again Sunday, as Matt McLain doubled three times, homered, collected 10 total bases in five at-bats and drove in five runs. The four total extra-base hits matched a Reds rookie record, matching Chris Sabo on June 18, 1988.

GUARDIANS 5, BREWERS 4, 10 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP)—Owen Miller's 10th-inning

RBI double helped Milwaukee rally after squandering a three-run lead and claim a road series win over Cleveland.

Miller went 2-for-5 and drove in two runs, including the game-winner against Cleveland reliever Trevor Stephan (3-3). The hit drove in Joey Wiemer, the Brewers' designated runner on second base to open extra innings.

Elvis Peguero held Cleveland in check over the Guardians' half of the 10th inning to earn his first save of the season. Devin Williams (4-1) picked up the win after pitching the ninth. Cleveland forced extra innings on the strength of a three-run sixth inning.

WHITE SOX 4, RED SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Luis Robert Jr. hit two home runs to power Chicago to a victory over visiting Boston.

Robert hit a two-run home run in the fourth inning and a solo shot in the sixth. Both bombs came against Red Sox starter Kutter Crawford (2-4). Jesse Scholtens (1-2) tossed four innings of scoreless relief to earn the victory.

Crawford gave up four runs on five hits in six innings. He recorded four strikeouts and walked one. Adam Duvall's double drove in Justin Turner to give the Red Sox a 1-0 lead in the third.

MARLINS 2, PIRATES 0

MIAMI (AP)—Rookie Eury Perez extended his streak to 21 consecutive scoreless innings, leading host Miami to a win over slumping Pittsburgh, which has lost 12 of its past 13 games.

Perez (5-1) allowed just four hits—all singles—and one walk in six innings. He has the longest active scoreless streak in the majors, and he also matched his career high with nine strikeouts, lowering his ERA to 1.34. His ERA after nine starts is the best in Marlins history, beating Dontrelle Willis (2.38). In June, Perez is 3-0 with a 0.32 ERA.

Nine-hole hitter Jonathan Davis supplied Miami's early offense with a solo home run, just his second of the year. Marlins second baseman Luis Arraez went 1-for-4 and still leads the majors with a .399 batting average. He is hitting .438 for the month of June.

Rockies 4, Angels 3

Ezequiel Tovar homered among his two hits, Austin Gomber pitched five solid innings and Colorado beat Los Angeles in Denver.

Justin Lawrence picked up his fourth save in a shaky

ninth inning for Colorado. The Rockies bounced back from Saturday night's historic 25-1 loss to Los Angeles to take the three-game series. Gomber (5-7) allowed two runs on five hits and struck out three in five-plus innings.

Shohei Ohtani, Eduardo Escobar and Taylor Ward each had two hits for the Angels, who were held in check a day after setting franchise records for runs, hits (28) and largest margin of victory.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ketel Marte launched a two-run home run in the eighth and visiting Arizona took advantage of a San Francisco baserunning gaffe in the bottom of the inning to hold on for a victory and avoid a three-game sweep.

The game's key play when left-handed-hitting Patrick Bailey chopped a grounder just inside the third base bag for a single. Third baseman Evan Longoria made a diving stop on the outfield grass to prevent J.D. Davis from scoring. But presuming his teammate had already taken off for the plate, Blake Sabol attempted to get from first to third, and he was tagged out in a rundown.

RAYS 3, ROYALS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Tyler Glasnow struck out 12 in five innings and Tampa Bay scored twice in the seventh inning to beat Kansas City in St. Petersburg, Fla.

With the game tied 1-1, the Rays took the lead when Jose Siri came home on a wild pitch by reliever Taylor Clarke (1-2). Harold Ramirez's sacrifice fly made it 3-1, and Royals center fielder Drew Waters prevented more damage with a diving catch for the third out. Glasnow allowed just one run on four hits with one walk. Pete Fairbanks worked the ninth for his eighth save.

NATIONALS 8, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Left-hander MacKenzie Gore made a triumphant return to San Diego and Jeimer Candelario and Joey Meneses each drove in three runs as Washington won the rubber match of the three-game series.

The Nationals were leading 3-1 after six innings, and they turned two throwing errors by Padres reliever Tim Hill into five unearned runs in the top of the seventh. Candelario and Meneses each had a two-run double in the inning.

Analysis: Victor Wembanyama's arrival bigger than Texas



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—As Victor Wembanyama took the stage for his first news conference inside his new home arena, he couldn't help but notice an accessory that the San Antonio Spurs commissioned for the occasion.

It was a replica of the Eiffel Tower—made from Legos. Hundreds of them.

Wembanyama loves Legos. He looked down at the 4-foot replica when he saw it and smiled. And then he sat next to Spurs general manager Brian Wright and started to talk business.

The scene was a perfect microcosm of Wembanyama's world right now. He's still a teenager, albeit a very big one, at 19 years old and not averse to saying that he enjoys building things with Legos. And he's also the player, who seems incredibly mature for his age, on a world stage that the Spurs are betting on to change their fortunes and help them return to championship contention.

"I feel like they've already started to take great care of me," Wembanyama said.

They have to. The world is watching. And the hype level is already incredibly high.

The notion of basketball being a global game and the NBA being a global league is not new, with roughly one out of every four players in the league born outside of the United States. But there's never been an international player coming into the NBA with the hubbub that Wembanyama has; he's already a global brand and global phenomenon even without play-



San Antonio Spurs' Victor Wembanyama, the No. 1 draft pick, listens to a question during an introductory NBA basketball press conference, Saturday, June 24, 2023, at the AT&T Center in San Antonio.

ing an NBA game.

Not even LeBron James had this much global attention when he came into the league 20 years ago.

The Kid from Akron, as he still calls himself, is one of the biggest success stories in the history of sports—grew up with almost nothing, instantly found fame and fortune as a teenager thanks to an enormous Nike contract that he signed when he entered the league, now is a billionaire, the all-time scoring leader in NBA history and still going strong.

LeBron was a big, big, big deal in the U.S. in 2003.

Wembanyama is a big, big, big deal globally right now.

That's the difference.

Stories have been written about him in English, French and Spanish over the weekend. He speaks English just about perfectly, and now that he's in San Antonio he wants to learn Spanish as well. If he plays for France in the Basketball World Cup this summer—something he wants to do, but time will tell if the Spurs are on board with that plan—he'll be playing games in Indonesia and the Philippines.

And if he plays on that world stage, he will be getting as much attention as any player in the tournament. Same goes for when

he plays at Summer League next month. And it'll be the case when the NBA season opens; Denver will raise a banner and get championship rings on opening night, some free agents that'll start agreeing to new deals in the next few days will be in new cities, but every storyline to start the season will have Wembanyama's 7-foot-plus shadow looming somewhere around it as well.

"Because of all the hype, he'll have a target on his back," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "So more than Os and Xs to begin with, we'll be most interested in setting a framework in an environ-

ment where he's comfortable, where he can be Victor. He's not LeBron or Tim (Duncan) or Kobe (Bryant) or anybody else. He's Victor and that's who we want him to be."

His presence just adds to the level of international stardom in the league right now.

The reigning NBA Finals MVP is Denver's Nikola Jokic of Serbia, the reigning league MVP and scoring champion is Philadelphia's Joel Embiid of Cameroon, and the top three finishers in that MVP race this season were all international players—Embiid, Jokic and Greece's Giannis Antetokounmpo of Milwaukee. That

trio has combined for the last five MVP awards; Dallas' Luka Doncic of Slovenia should be in the MVP mix for years to come as well.

There's even talk of a World vs. the U.S. format to the All-Star Game before long. That might be a heck of a challenge for the American side.

"We're really seeing the ongoing continued growth of this league," Commissioner Adam Silver said earlier this year. "I know David Stern, who unfortunately is no longer with us, but it was so much of his vision to turn this into the global game it's become today. If he's looking down on us, I know he'd be incredibly proud of those numbers."

Stern would have loved Wembanyama.

The teenager—already being mentored by past Spurs great big men like Duncan and David Robinson, along with French Spurs Tony Parker and Boris Diaw—is worldly, mature, engaging, funny and somehow has stayed humble even with all the attention. His family shuns the spotlight. They want no part of the attention. Wembanyama's parents are almost always around, but never meddling.

"To my family, it's got to be weird sometimes," Wembanyama said. "It's got to be strange. There's a lot of new stuff. But they're really smart and grounded people. Whenever I need to find stability, I can go to them."

He's going to need those bits of normalcy. The challenge that awaits him is as tall as he is and the world is watching.

DENVER (AP)—The parade is just a memory for the NBA-champion Denver Nuggets and the party is beginning to simmer down.

Back to the business of finding a way to remain at the NBA's mountaintop.

The Nuggets went in search of some cost-control players in the NBA draft to build around a core that includes Jamal Murray, Michael Porter Jr., Aaron Gordon and Finals MVP Nikola Jokic. This approach may be a way to bring back sixth man Bruce Brown, who opted out and is set to be a free agent. Or another veteran eager to help defend the title.

It took Denver 47 NBA seasons to get to the top. Staying there won't be easy, either, with the Northwest Division adding a wealth of young talent Thursday night. Portland paired Scoot Henderson (No. 3 pick) with Damian Lillard. Utah added Taylor Hendricks and Keyonte George to continue their youth-

Nuggets try to run it back in Northwest Division that added wealth of young talent

ful trend. Minnesota will run it back with Anthony Edwards & Co., and Oklahoma City added point guard Cason Wallace to go with standout Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

Denver picked up Gonzaga forward Julian Strawther at No. 29 and Penn State point guard Jalen Pickett at No. 32 as part of a deal with the Indiana Pacers. They also got Hunter Tyson out of Clemson with the 37th selection.

The Nuggets are hoping to strike gold again, like they did last summer when they took Christian Braun out of Kansas at No. 21. Braun turned in valuable minutes off the bench during the Nuggets' run to their first championship.

One thing's for sure: The new Jazz picks certainly stood out.

Their suits, anyway.

Hendricks, the No. 9 pick out of Central Florida, wore

pink and George, the Big 12 freshman of the year from Baylor, donned a snazzy print suit.

DENVER NUGGETS

Team needs: Not many. They're the defending champions.

Who did the team draft: Strawther, who is known for his big-shot ability (he drained a go-ahead 3-pointer with 7.2 seconds left to help Gonzaga beat UCLA in the Sweet 16). Pickett could help fill the void should Brown leave.

Whose game does the draft pick most compare to: Jordan Poole for Strawther. For Pickett, perhaps an Andre Miller.

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

Team needs: Planning to run it back with the Rudy Gobert and Karl-Anthony Towns

tandem inside and ceding more responsibility to star swingman Anthony Edwards, Minnesota is set for starters. Backup center Naz Reid is an unrestricted free agent and he'd leave a big hole.

Who did the team draft: After trading two future second-round picks to San Antonio to move into the 33rd spot, the Timberwolves will receive Leonard Miller, a 6-foot-10 forward from Canada who played with the G League Ignite last season. Miller averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds in 24 games. With their own pick at No. 53 overall, the Timberwolves went with UCLA guard Jaylen Clark. He had surgery in March to repair an Achilles injury.

Whose game does the draft pick most compare to: Just 19, Miller needs development, but perhaps his game can evolve to resemble

Jarred Vanderbilt. Depending on how he recovers from the Achilles surgery, perhaps Clark can develop into a Matisse Thybulle-type defender.

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

Team needs: Interior strength, 3-point shooting.

Who did the team draft: Wallace, Dallas' pick at No. 10; Hunter Tyson at 37; Keyontae Johnson at 50.

Whose game does the draft pick most compare to: Wallace: Jrue Holiday because of his floater and defense; Tyson: Danilo Gallinari because of his size and ability to stretch the floor; Johnson: A smaller Zion Williamson because of his versatility and strength.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

Team needs: Help for Lillard after missing out on the playoffs

for the second straight season.

Who did the team draft: Henderson out of the G League Ignite with the third overall pick, forward Kris Miller out of Iowa with the No. 23 pick, and French guard Rayan Rupert with the No. 43 pick.

Whose game does the draft pick most compare to: Henderson is a tenacious point guard that some compare to Russell Westbrook.

UTAH JAZZ

Team needs: Shooters, switchable defenders and backcourt depth.

Who did the team draft: Hendricks, George, No. 28 Brice Sensabaugh out of Ohio State.

Whose game does the draft pick most compare to: Hendricks can shoot and defend like Bobby Portis; George is a creative shot-maker like Anfernee Simons or Bradley Beal; Sensabaugh is a pure shooter in the mold of T.J. Warren

HANMI Golf tourney early bird deadline on July 2

July 2 is the date to remember to avail of the best registration fee for this year's 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament.

Early bird registration rates up until 5pm on Sunday are \$150, inclusive of optional play. After the early bird deadline, registration increases to \$170.

The HANMI Charity Classic, one of the most highly anticipated tournaments of the year, will be held on July 15, 2023, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.



"Everyone loves a sale, and so for anyone planning to play in this year's HANMI tournament, we encourage you to register at LaoLao by this Sunday," said HANMI Tournament Committee chair

Juko Ishikawa. "Optional play is already included in the \$150 early bird fee this year, so it's a great price for the kind of great tournament HANMI is known to deliver for our players."

The tournament will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Registration forms are available at www.saipanhotels.org and

at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, where forms can be submitted.

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2023 Mazda 3 Hatchback Sport Sedan from Triple J Motors, a 2023 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors, a 2023 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner Double Cab from Atkins Kroll (AK), \$5,000 cash from Pacifica Insurance, and \$5,000 cash from Island Training Solutions.

"It seems to be a lucky year, with players already winning two cars in tournaments earlier this year," said Ishikawa. "We hope the same in just a couple weeks!"

The tournament's popular

blackjack double peoria format will return. Registration fee includes green fee and the awards

luncheon after the tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort with a raffle. Option play will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The early bird deadline for the 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course is 5pm on July 2, 2023. The tournament will be held on July 15, 2023, and registration forms are available at www.saipanhotels.org and the golf course.

include accurate drive (hole No. 9) and four chances for nearest to the pin (holes No. 3, 7, 13, and 17). Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am.

A portion of the proceeds of this year's tournament will benefit Marianas Tourism Education Council and 500 Sails. MTEC is a non-profit organization committed to educating the Marianas community, especially school children, about the Marianas tourism industry. 500 Sails is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring the maritime traditions of the Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact Tournament chair Juko Ishikawa at worldresort@pti-com.com. (PR)

NMI

From page 19

overall was Akiko Miller of the women's 50-54 age group with a time of 1:31:05.73.

In the women's 35 age group, Savannah Grant took first place with a time of 2:10:20.81 and Kathy Ruszala was second with a time of 2:21:50.90.

Kathleen Tolentino took home gold in the women's 40 division with her time of 2:13:48.59; second went to Angela Taflinger at 2:28:13.69; and third was Sheila Isla at 2:29:47.45.

Rosemarie Chisato took first place in the women's 45 age group with a time of 2:00:18.81 and second went to Guam's Jennifer Pulmones at 2:06:50.04.

Second to Miller in the women's 50 division was Jessica Ortizo at 1:58:33.54.

In the men's division, Chad Taflinger took gold in the 40 age group at 1:52:51.52; Jess Gariguez took first in the 45 age group at 2:42:21.78; second to Sato was Raymund Tolentino at 2:02:43.26; and Mike Sawyer was first in the

men's 55 at 1:51:44.17.

Barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee took home the gold medal in the men's 65 with a time of 1:37:44.21 and second went to Manny Sitchon at 2:23:28.49; and in the men's 70 age group, Paul Khang finished first with a time of 1:46:26.82.

In the 5,000m masters championships, Miller topped the women's 50 and overall with a time of 18:48.74; second was Ortizo at 24:02.42; and Isla took the 40 age group at 31:21.40.

Edward Dela Cruz Jr. took gold in the men's 30 age group at 25:42.01; Keith Longuski took gold in the 35 age group at 20:34.75; Taflinger was first in the 40 age group at 21:13.69 and second went to Jacoby Winkfield at 23:32.21.

Sato finished first in the men's 50 division at 18:31.63 and second went to Leith Pool at 25:24.26; Lee was first in the men's 65 at 18:49.69; another barefoot runner, Changwhan Jang, took first in the men's 70 division at 18:02.10 and second was Khang at 20:39.34.

The 29U men's 5,000m

was the only event not won by the NMI but by Micronesia's Hugh Kent at 16:23.89; second was Micronesia's Jaedon Way with a time of 23:14.13; and third was NMI's Simon Necesito at 26:45.03.

In the women's 10,000m

race/walk masters championships, 80-year-old Jeane Rayphand took gold at 1:07:31.86.

Andrzej Szefer took gold in the men's 10,000 race/walk with a time of 57:52.58 and was also first in the 5,000m

race/walk at 28:33.47.

For 50-year-old Sato said the half marathon course was flat and easy to run. "There was road construction but there were people guiding and I didn't have any problems with it," he said. "I trained



LEIGH GASES

Most of the NMI half marathon runners in the Oceania Athletics Masters Championships pose with their medals after the awards ceremony last Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

LEE

From page 19

13U girls for the Mary Hawton Trophy.

Prior to that, Lee lost her only singles match so far when she succumbed to New Zealand's Una Misic, 6-0, 6-0, last Friday.

On the same day, Lee teamed up with Mia Chang Yuk Shan of Tahiti and lost to Misic and fellow Kiwi Dorea Morina, 2-6, 0-6.

Last Sunday, Lee and Shan dropped a 3-6, 2-6 match against Northern Territory's Grace Harris and Christina Prete.

Asked about her performance in the 2023 Australian Teams Championships, Lee said she's been learning a lot.

"I only have a few matches, but it's been going great. My dad's advice helped me a lot during the games," she said.

Before Lee's series of singles and doubles matches, the younger sister of All-American Carol Lee took part in a three-day training camp where over 100 junior players across Australia, New Zealand, and Oceania took part.

Lee said the training camp was good and said she's got a lot of support from her fellow campmates.

"They are great, they have been supporting me a lot and

we have been doing good," she said.

Outside of the training camp and tournament, Lee said she's enjoying the fauna of the Land Down Under.

"It's great, they have a lot of interesting animals and birds."

Lee was invited to the 2023 Australian Teams Championships through the International Tennis Federation's Grand Slam Player Development Programme in collaboration with the Oceania Tennis Federation.

Meanwhile, in a report from tennis.com.au, tournament director Francis Soyer said the Australian Teams Championships provides an important opportunity for juniors.

portunity for juniors.

"National tournaments like these give Australian junior tennis players the best opportunity to compete at the highest level, alongside their peers and teammates," Soyer said.

In addition, junior players from Pacific Oceania are able to compete at the competition as part of a partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Pacific AusSports program to support women and girls in tennis in the Pacific.

The players and three coaches from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu benefitted from the 10-day mentoring program, where they were able to gain invaluable experience to take back

to their home environments.

"The Pacific AusSports partnership is really vital in providing women in sport from the Oceania and Pacific region to gain valuable experience and mentoring through the program and for Tennis Australia to connect and support some of our neighboring countries, coaches, and athletes," Vicki Reid, Tennis Australia director of Government, Social Impact and Stakeholder Relations added.

The Australian Teams Championships is one of four Australian Junior Championship events held annually, which take place on each of the Grand Slam surfaces—clay, grass and hard court.

KANOA

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goals and scored four goals in this game for Shirley's.

Guinevere Borja scored a hat-trick, Jhaza Cruz scored two, and Katrina Costales, To-

remy Baek, and Jerlyn Castillo scored one each.

The rest of the Shirley's team include Dianne Pablo, Mae Ito, Stephanie Lumbad, Gabrielle Race, Rizza Relucio, Stephanie Flores, Bernadette Horey, and Fiona Bucalig.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Jannah Casarino, second from left, won the Golden Boot Award with 14 goals in the Tineckha-Awaal (Premier) Division finals of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Anne Lee, third row fourth from left, poses with fellow participants of the three-day training camp before the 2023 Australian Teams Championships at the KDV Tennis facility in Gold Coast, Australia.



Astros win finale
with Dodgers in 11
innings.

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HANMI Golf
tourney early bird
deadline on July 2.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI masters athletes top half marathon, 5,000m



By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The longest distance event in the 2023 Oceania Athletics Masters Championships—the half marathon—was swept by CNMI runners last Saturday morning from the Hyatt Regency Saipan to the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and back.

What's more impressive was not merely their age—which ranged from 35 years and above—but that they also competed in not one, but multiple events throughout the four-day championship event under Saipan's blazing hot summer sun.

There were 15 half marathon runners and the CNMI placed first in all age divisions. The fleetest afoot overall was Kosuke Sato from the men's 50-54 division, with a time of 1:27:22.19. The second fastest



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Kosuke Sato, center, is the fastest amongst the half marathon runners of the Oceania Athletics Masters Championships and first place in his 50-year-old age group last Saturday. Second is Raymund Tolentino, left, with Oceania official Edward Dela Cruz Jr.

Kanoa FC blanks TakeCare for Premier League championship



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa Football Club are the champions of the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier) Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League after they defeated TakeCare in the finals last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The ladies of Kanoa Football Club finished strong as they shut down TakeCare, 7-0, in the Tinekcha-Awaal (Premier) Division finals of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa had a strong start and wasted no time looking for opportunities to score and attacking TakeCare's goalie and defense—which paid off in the 12th minute when Deseha Mendiola

found an opening.

Mendiola kept up her striking pose as she scored the second goal in the 21st minute and completed the hat-trick in the 32nd minute.

TakeCare could not respond and it was already a 3-0 Kanoa lead even before the start of the second half. Christina Atalig then made it a 4-0 game right before the first half ended.

Not even five minutes later, Atalig scored her second goal and made it a 5-0 game in the 42nd minute.

Time was running out for TakeCare but Kanoa's defenses were tight and closed off—deflecting any attempts

at the goal as the lead only extended with Ye Lyn Ha's goal in the 50th minute for a 6-0 game. The last and seventh goal was made by Aubrey White and TakeCare handed the championship to Kanoa.

With Mendiola, White, Atalig, and Ha in the championship roster were Julie Ann Chavez, Joselynn Atalig, Sophia Quintos, Audrey Castro, and Mia Abuan.

In the game between Shirley's and the U17 NMI Development Team before the championships, Shirley's won decisively, 12-1.

Jannah Casarino won the Golden Boot Award with 14

See KANO on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

Akiko Miller, center, is the women's 50-54 age group winner and second overall in the Half Marathon event of the Oceania Athletics Masters Championships last Saturday. Second is Jessica Ortizo, left, and are both joined by Edward Dela Cruz Jr., an Oceania official and athlete for NMI.

Lee teams up with PNG netter to win doubles match



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Anne Lee, center, gets her certificate of participation in the three-day training camp before the 2023 Australian Teams Championships at the KDV Tennis facility in Gold Coast, Australia.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The CNMI's Anne Lee so far salvaged a doubles victory in the 2023 Australian Teams Championships at the KDV Tennis facility in Gold Coast, Australia.

The 12-year-old Saipan International School student teamed up with Colita Hakana of Papua New Guinea to beat Tasmania's Paige Jacobson and Imogen Ransley, 6-3, 6-4, last Saturday in group B of the

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